

SUPERMAN

Post-**CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 19:

The World of Smallville



LOIS LANE and LANA LANG in

VISITOR

THE MOMENT OF THE
MILLENNIUM IS
SAFELY PASSED.

BUT FOR
SUPERMAN THE
CONSEQUENCES
MAY BE ONLY
BEGINNING...

SO THIS
IS KENT'S
HOME
TOWN...

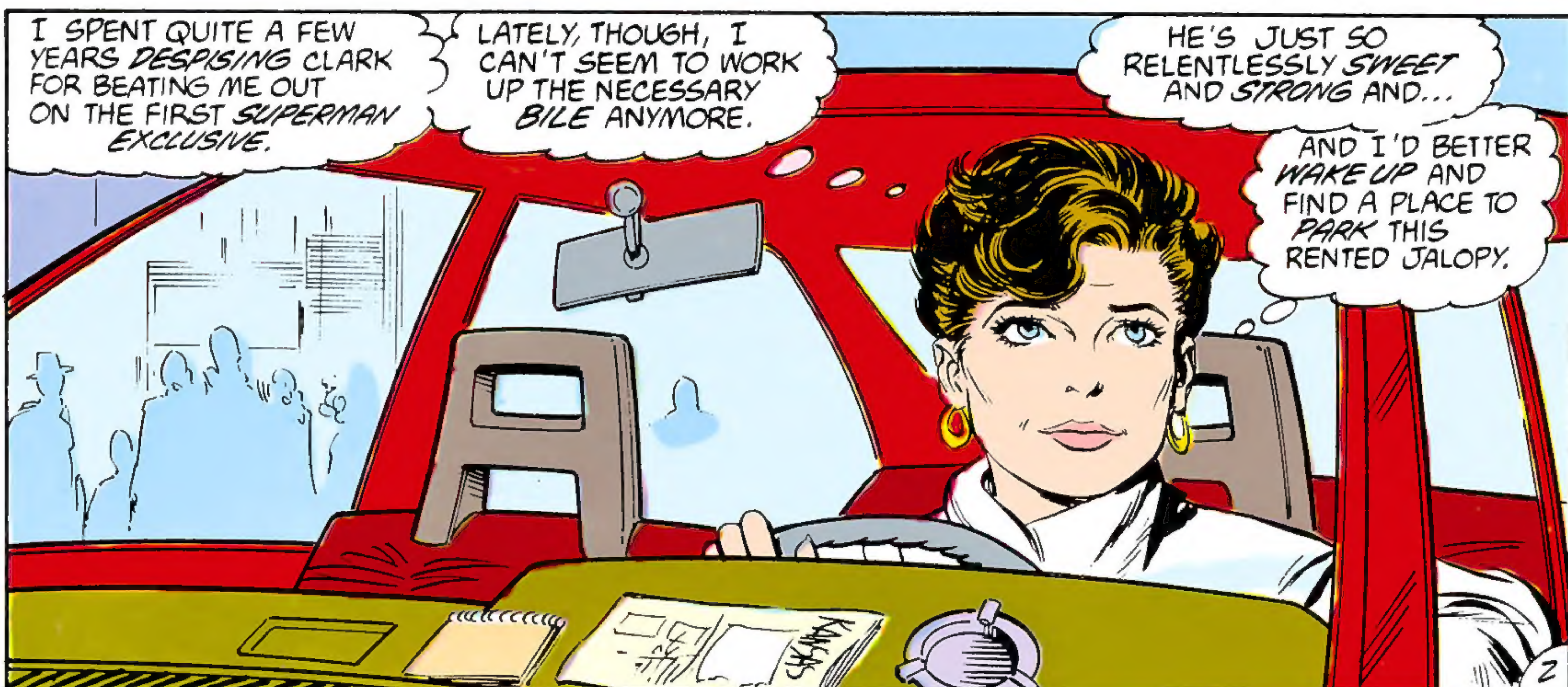
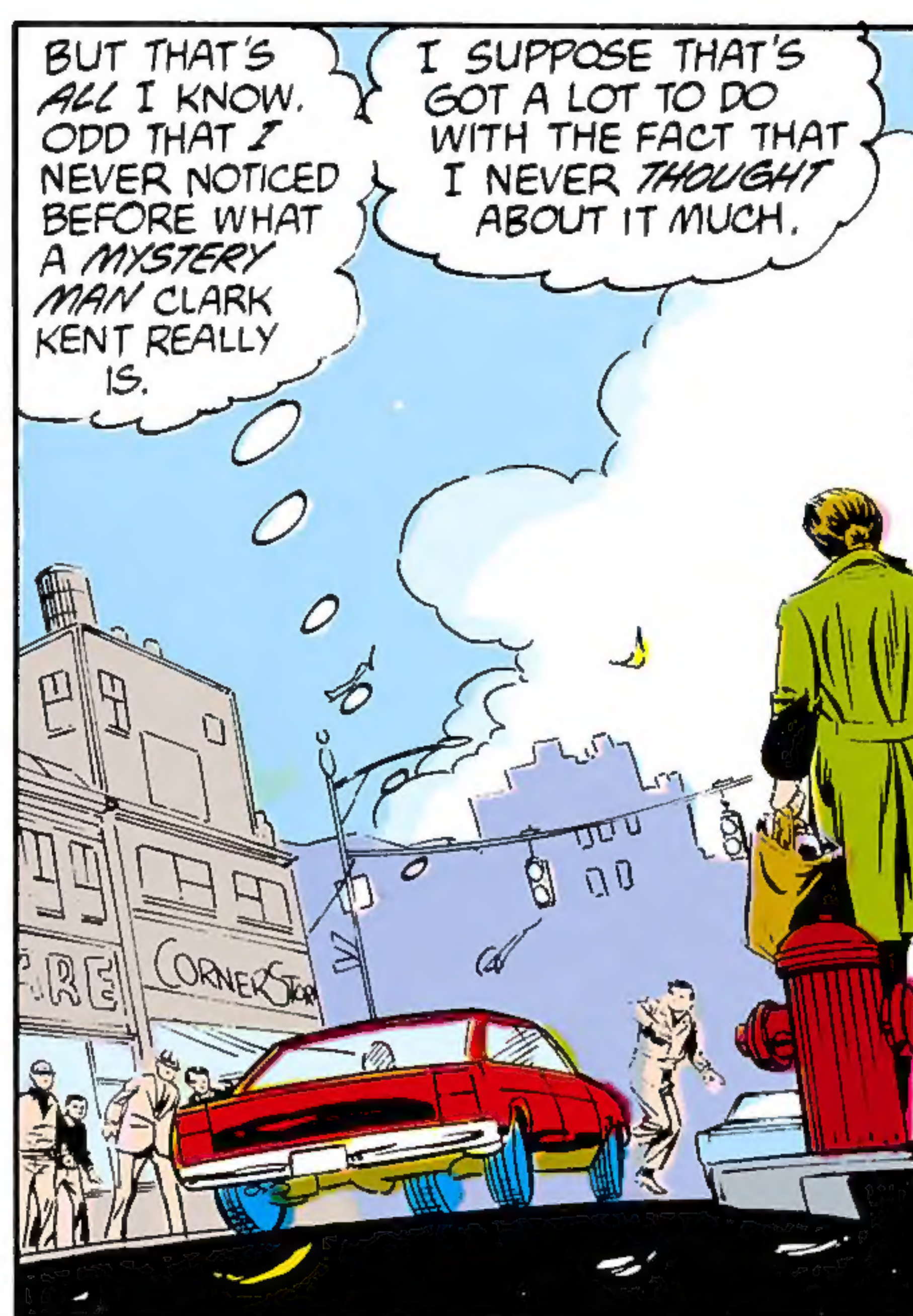
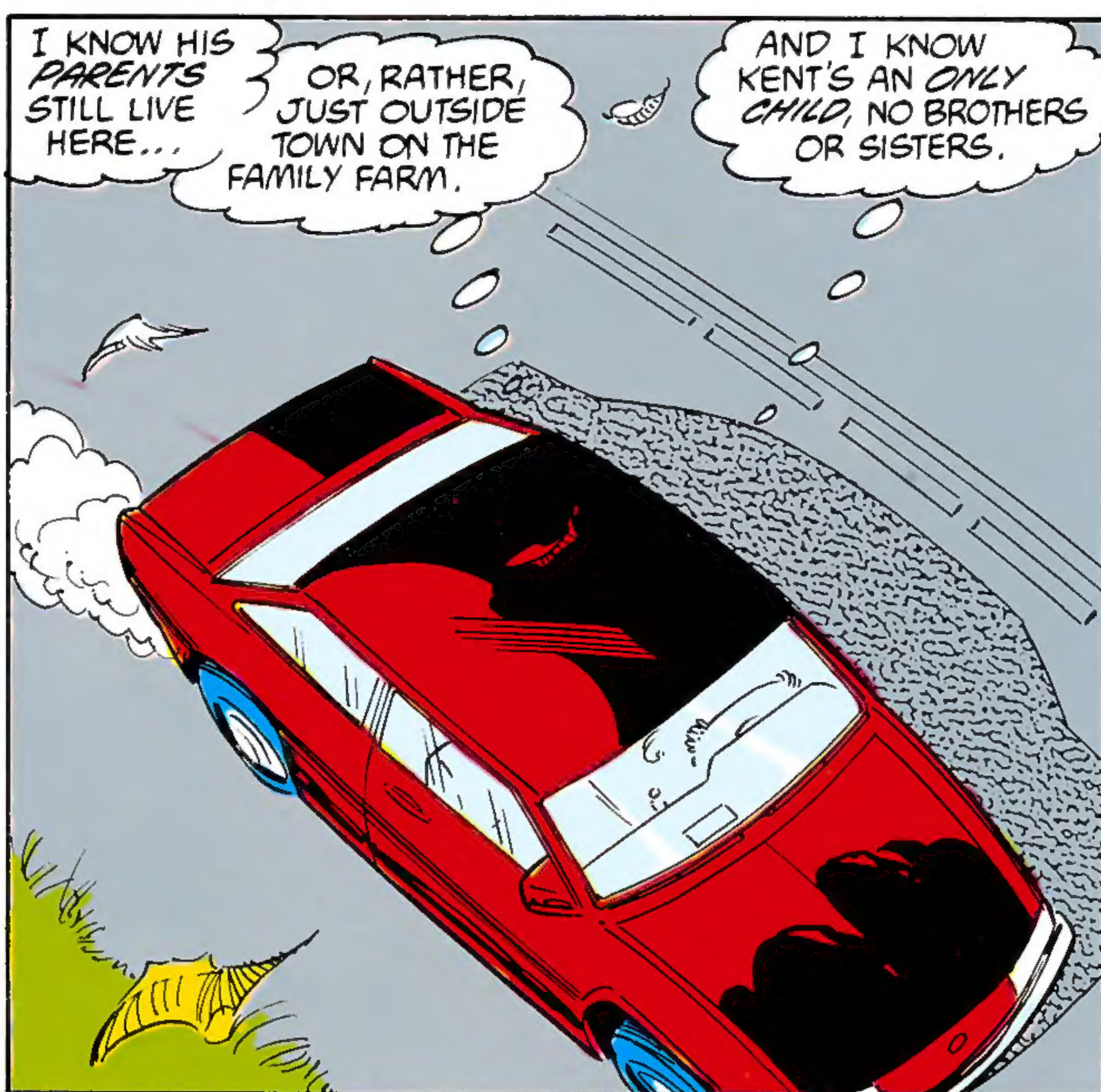
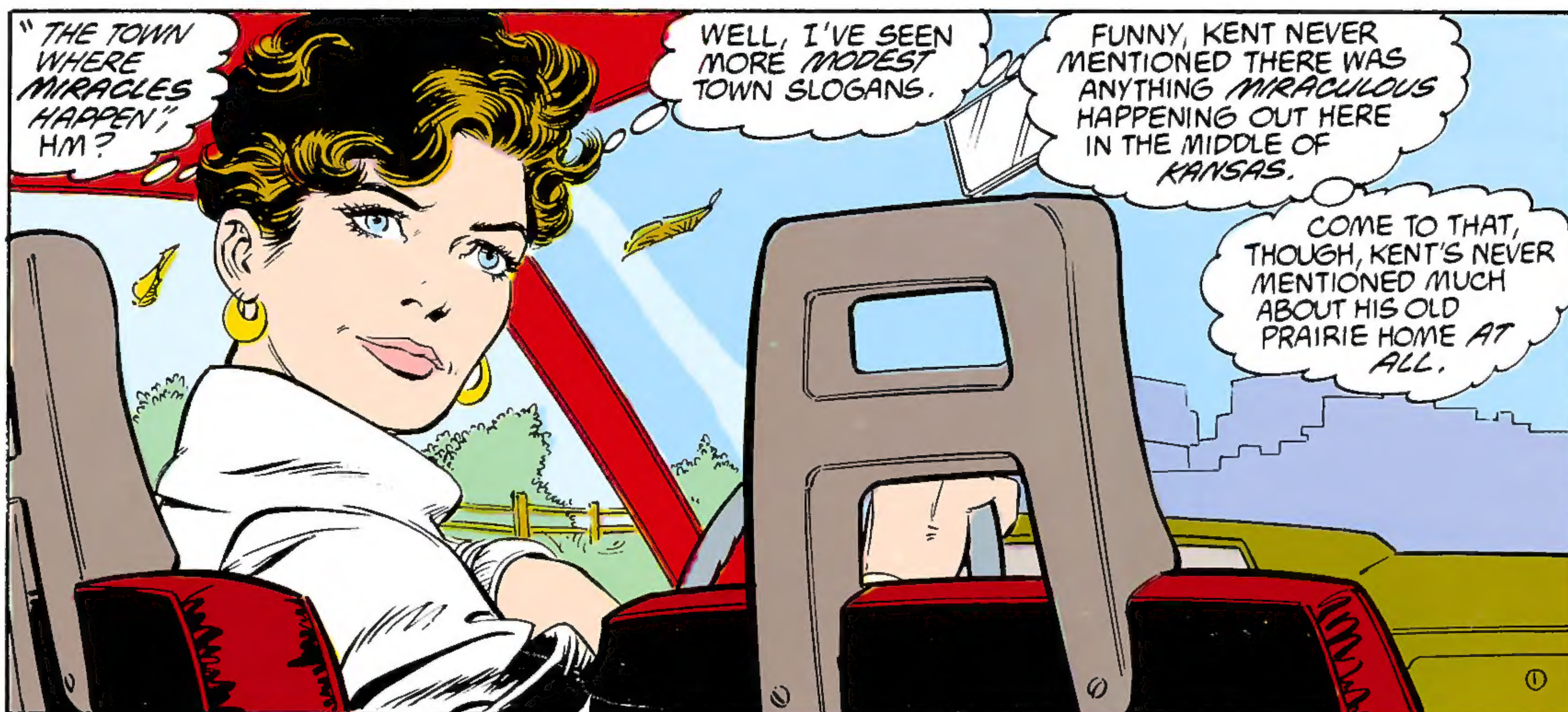
Welcome to
Smallville

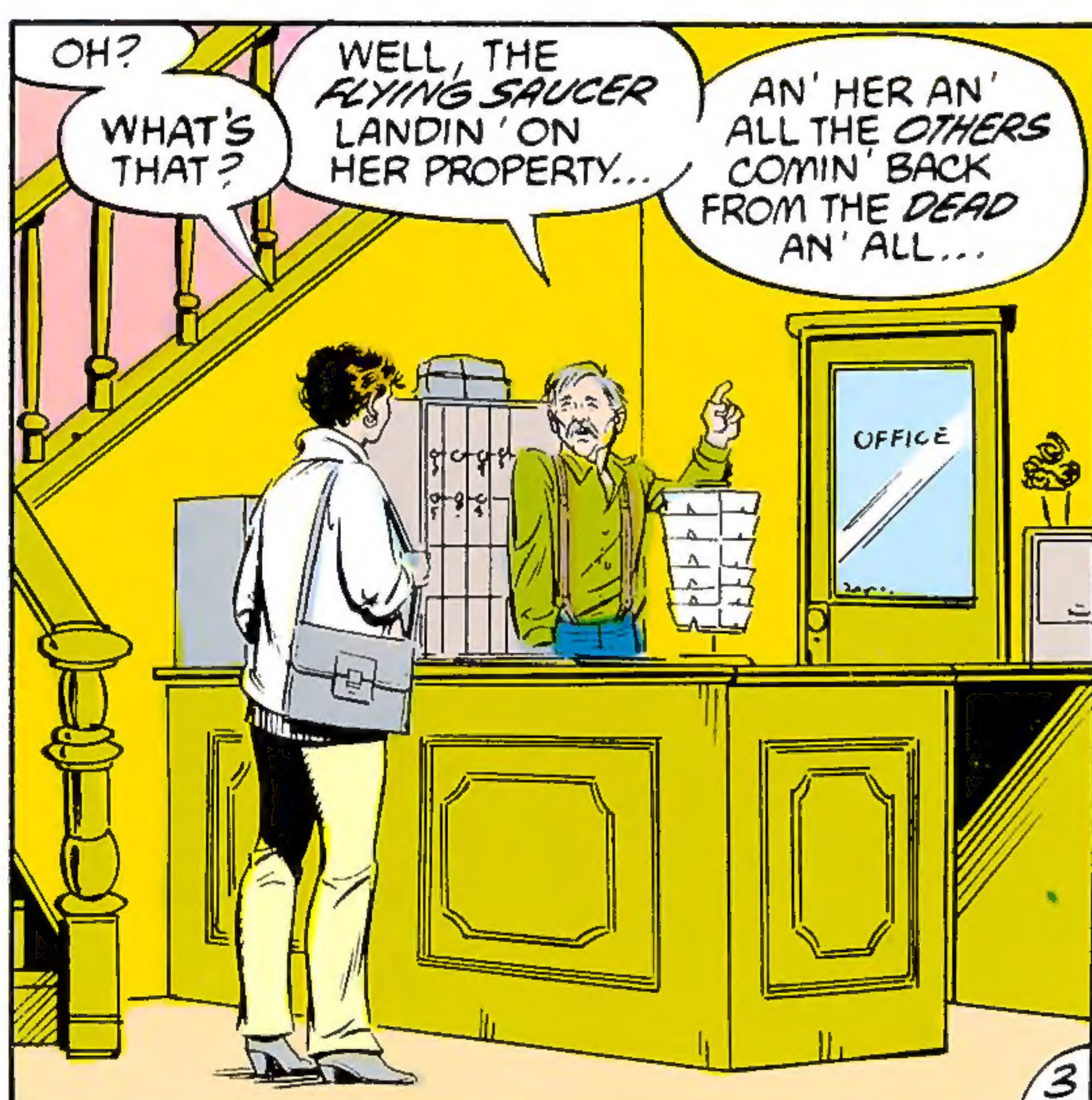
THE TOWN WHERE
MIRACLES HAPPEN...

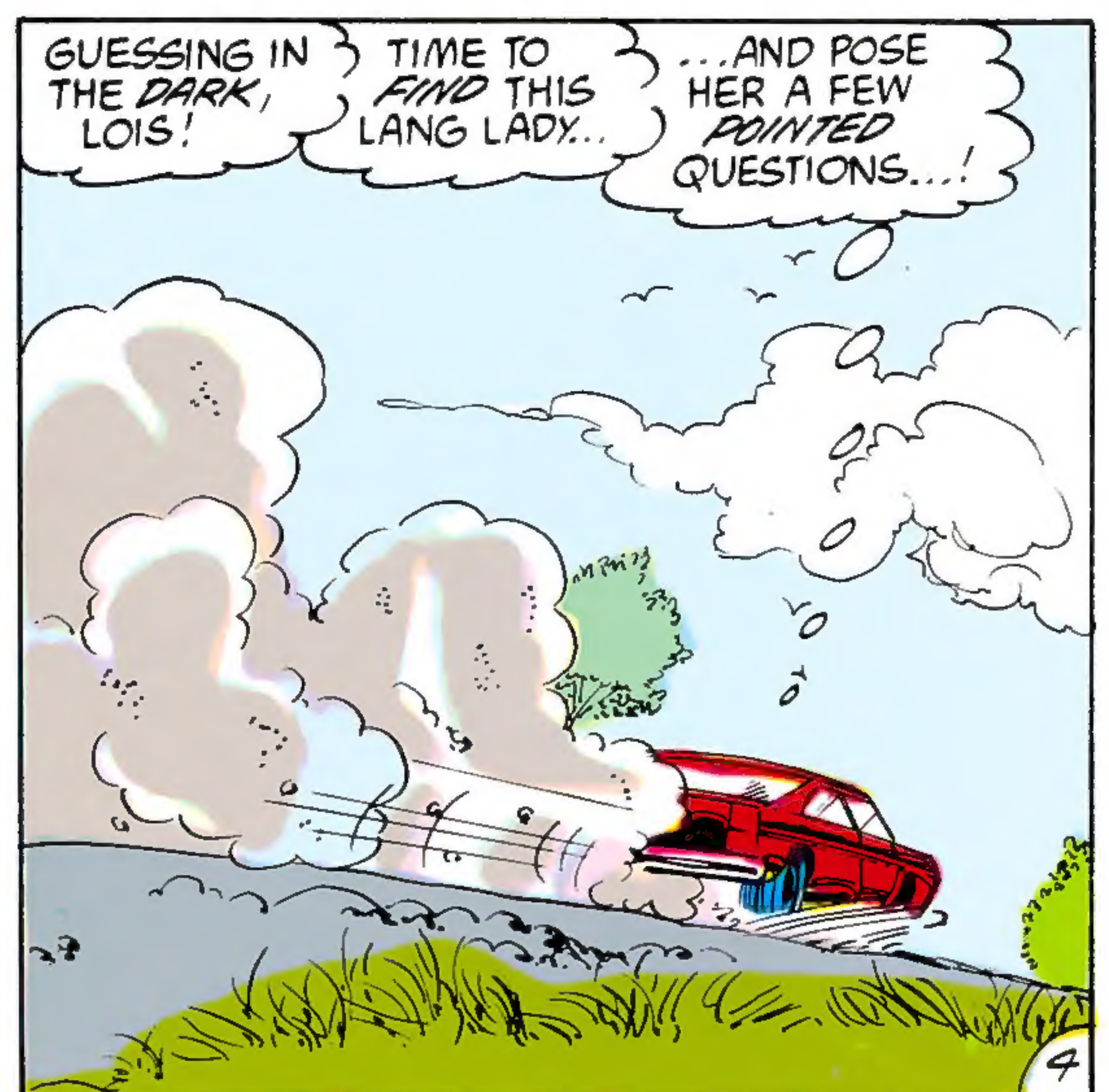
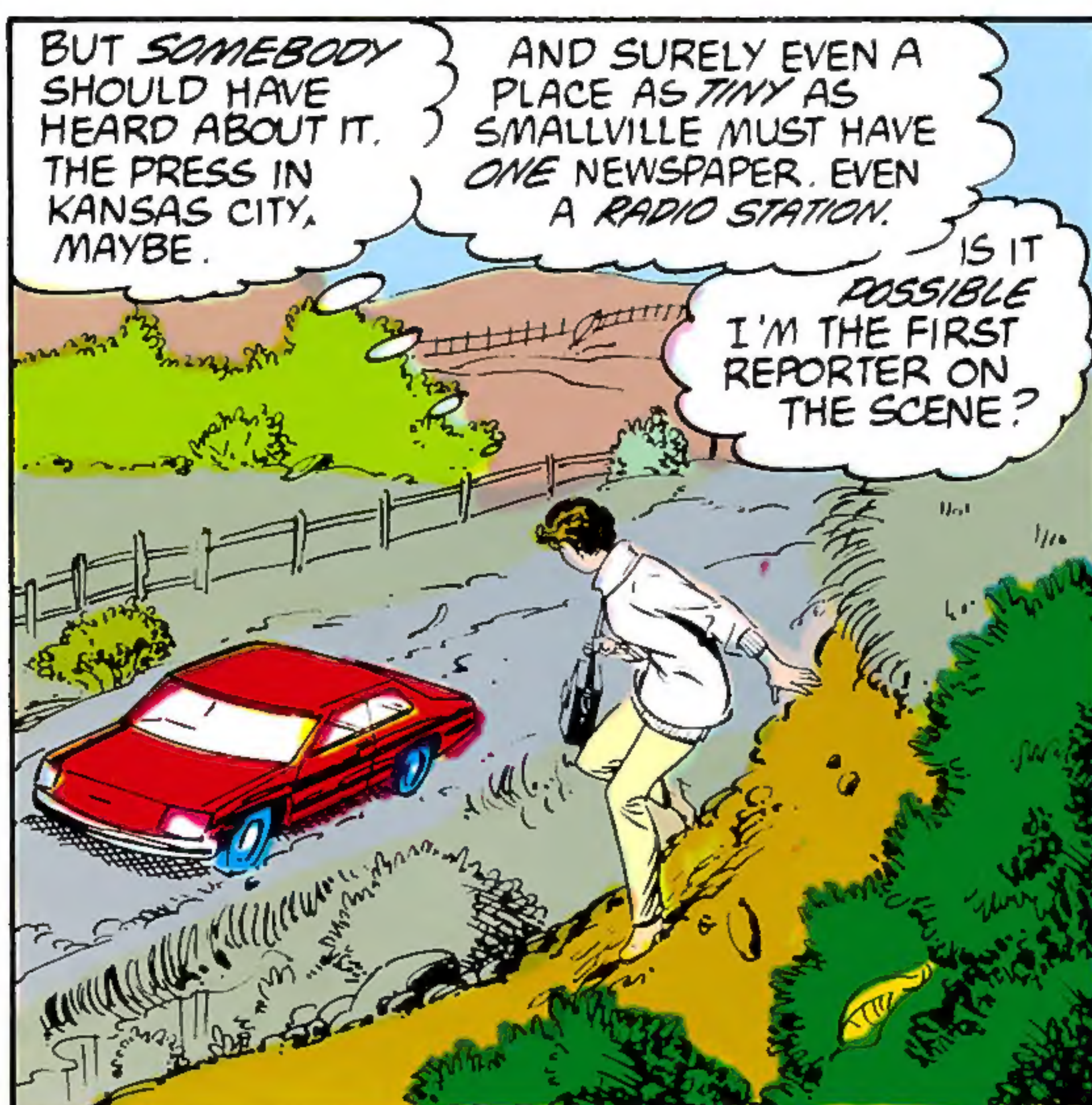
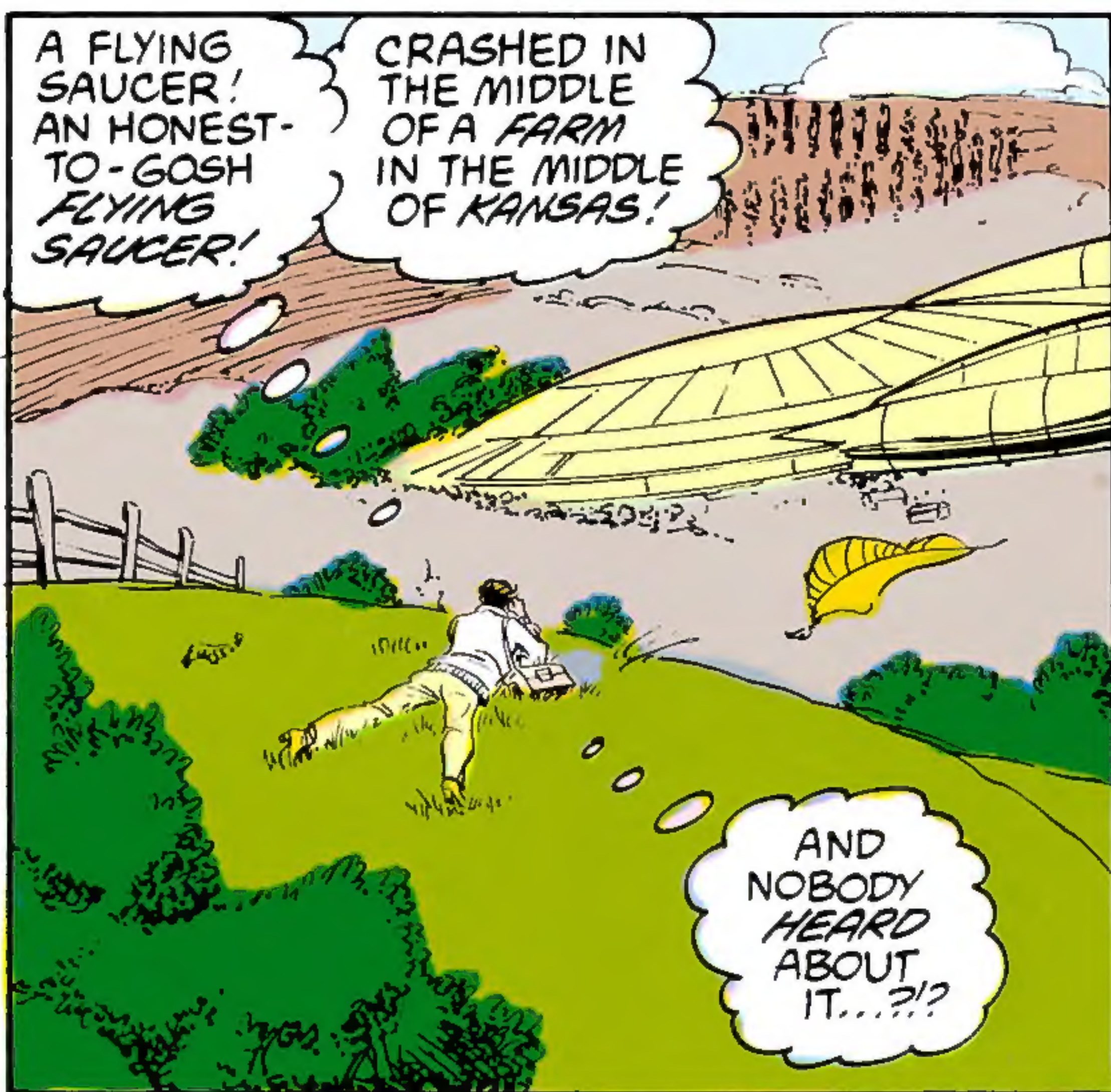
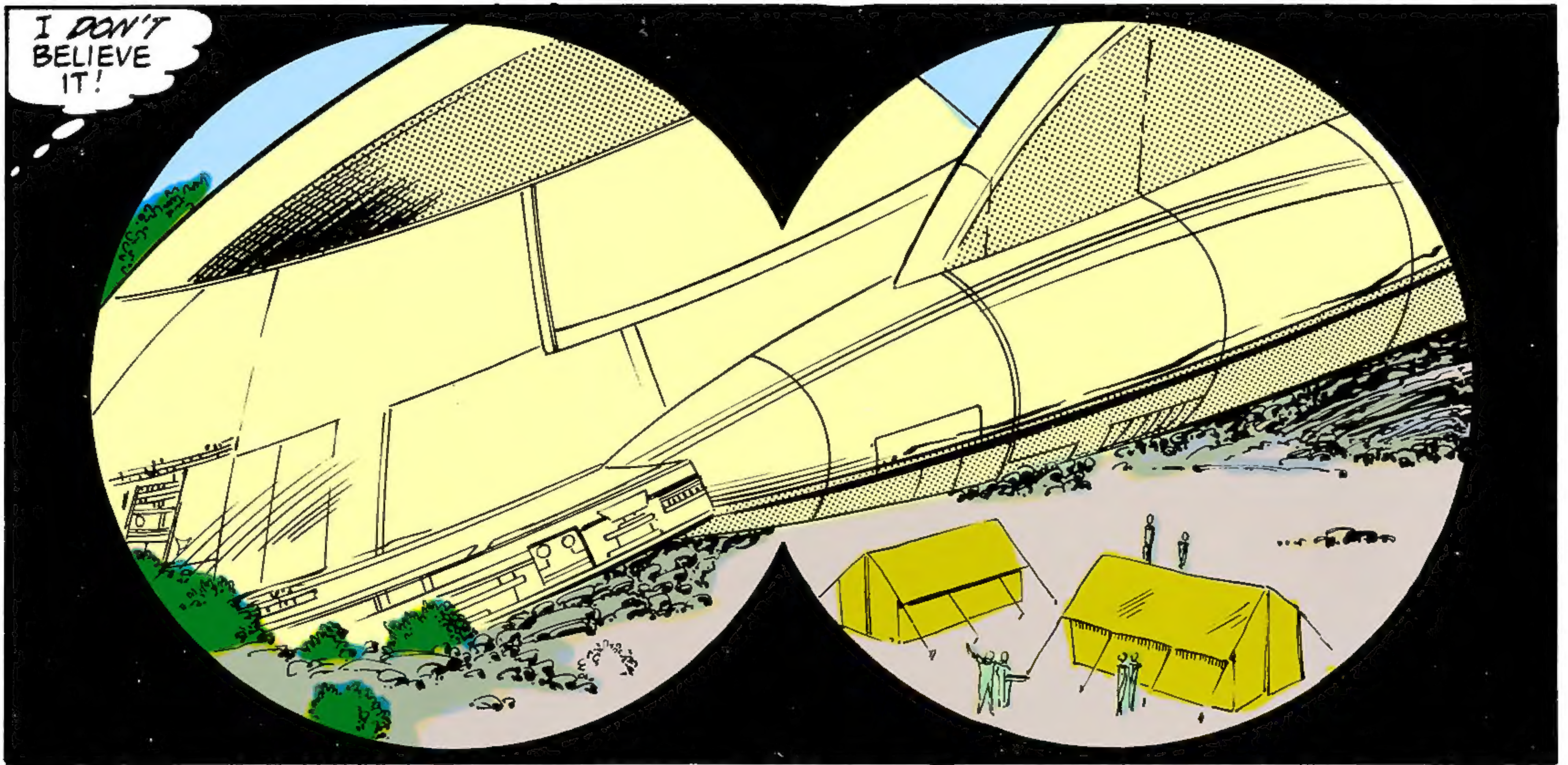
MAYOR
RUTHERFORD
B. SMALL

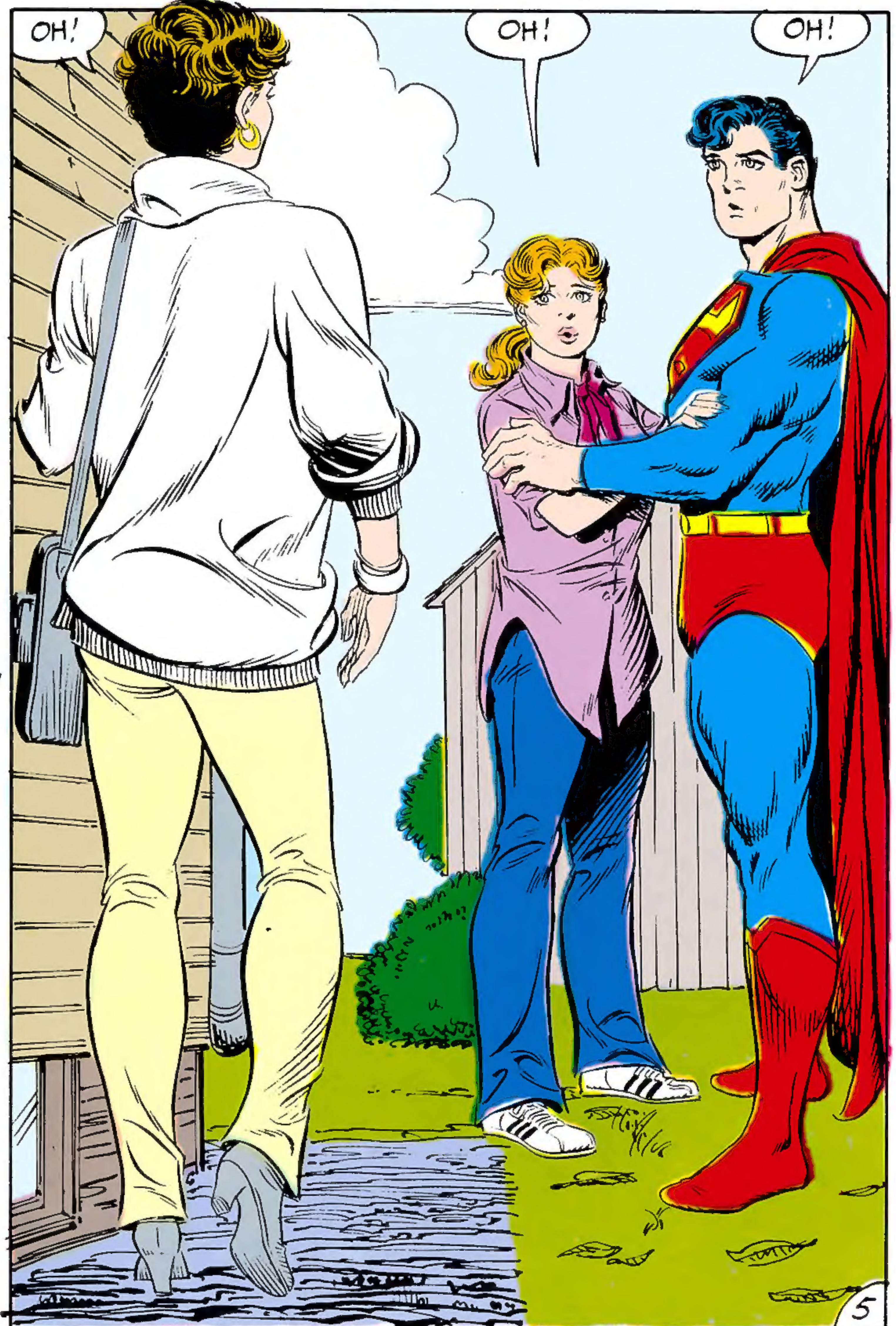
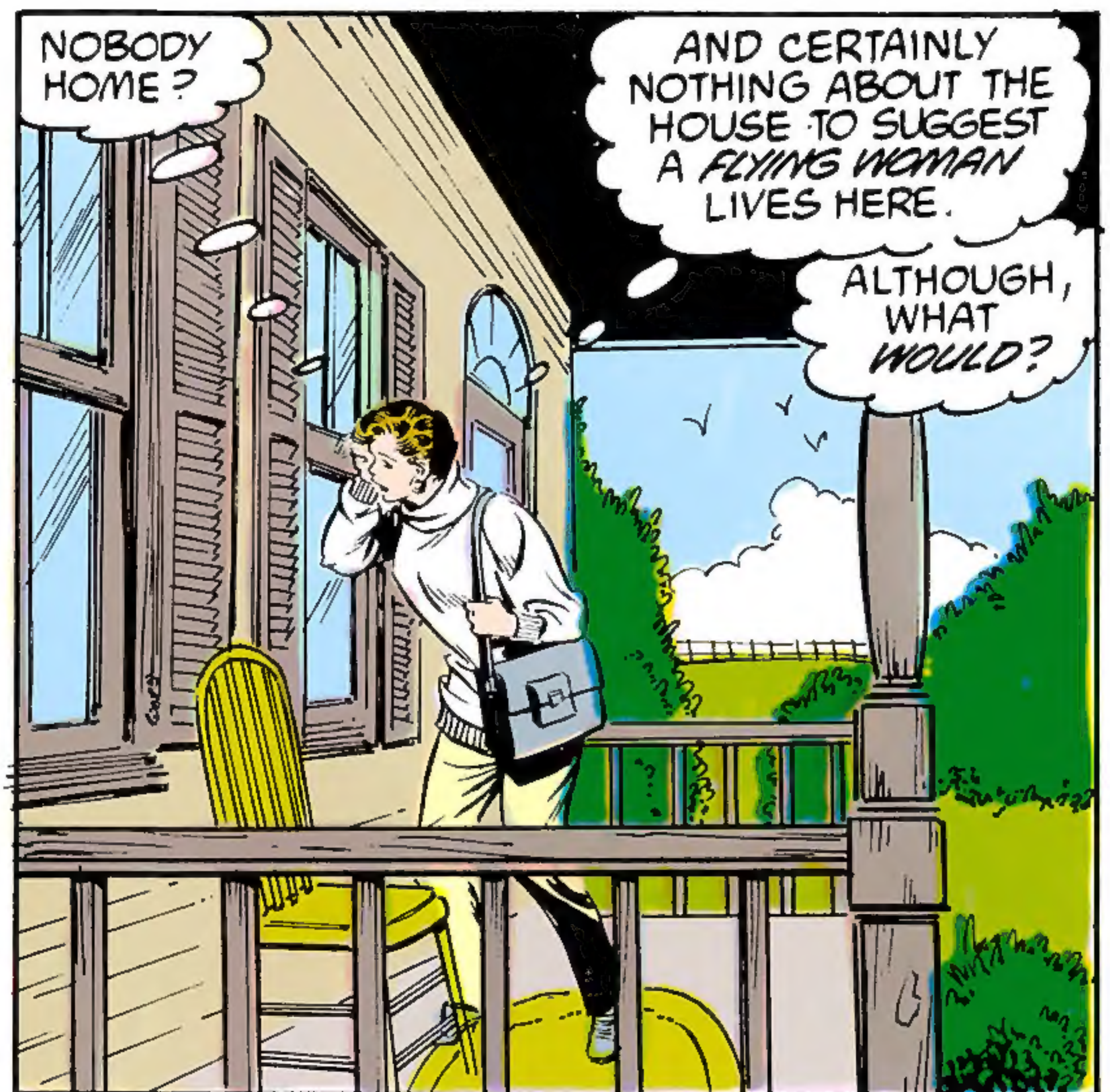
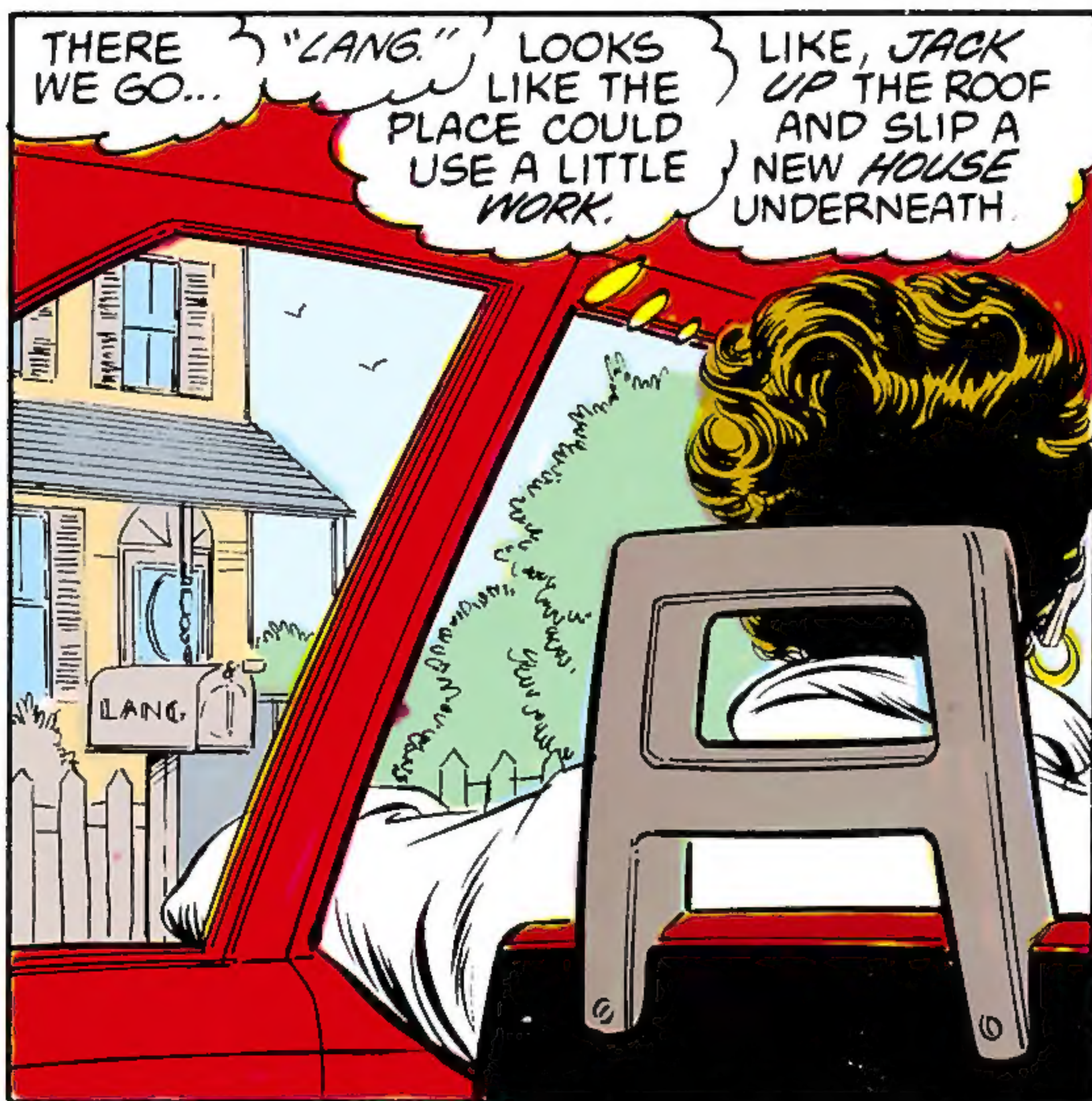
JOHN BYRNE: writer, penciller
LEONARD STARR
AND KEITH WILLIAMS: inkers
TOM ZIUKO: colorist
JOHN COSTANZA: letterer
MIKE CARLIN: editor
Featuring characters created by
JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

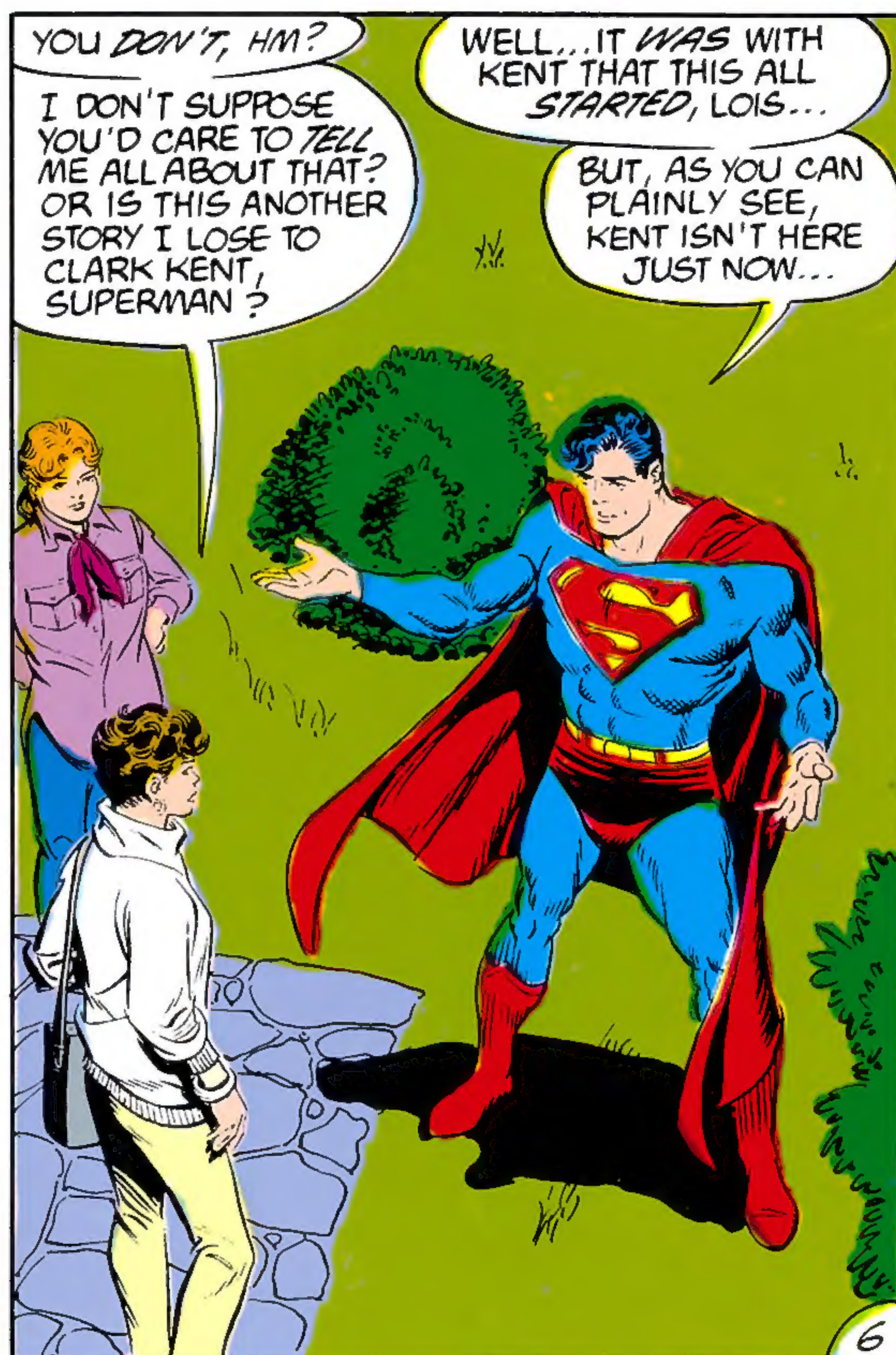
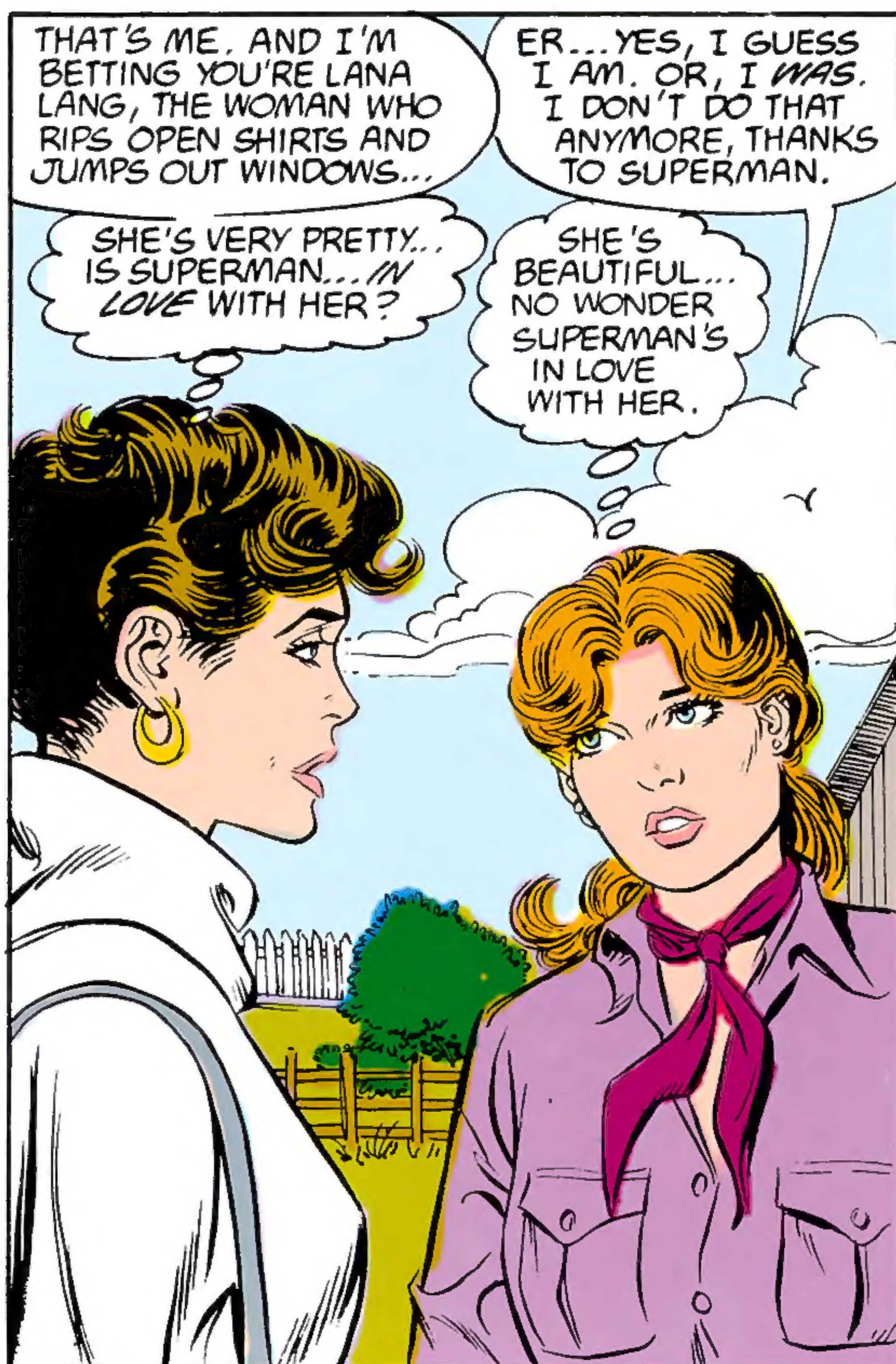
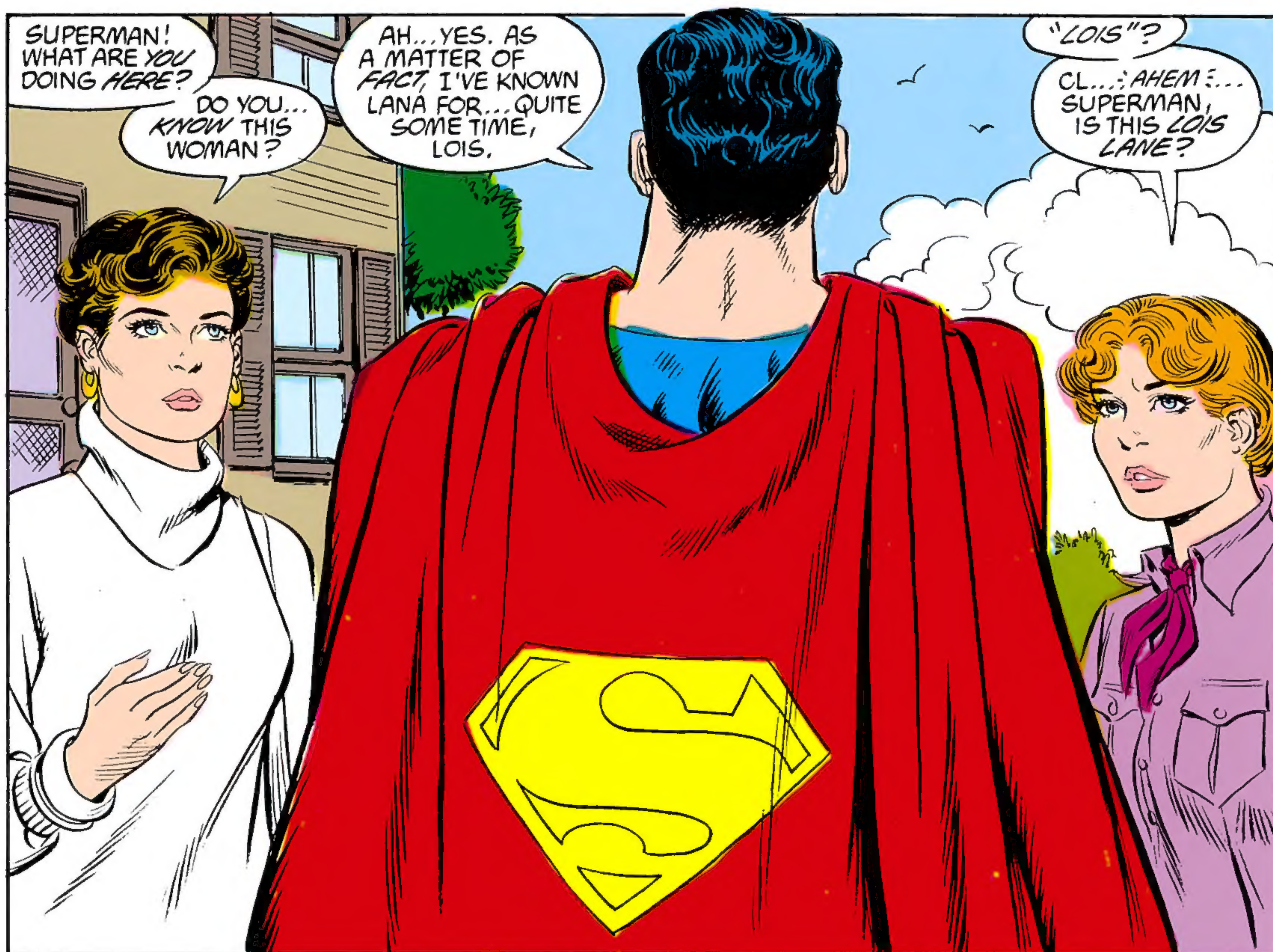
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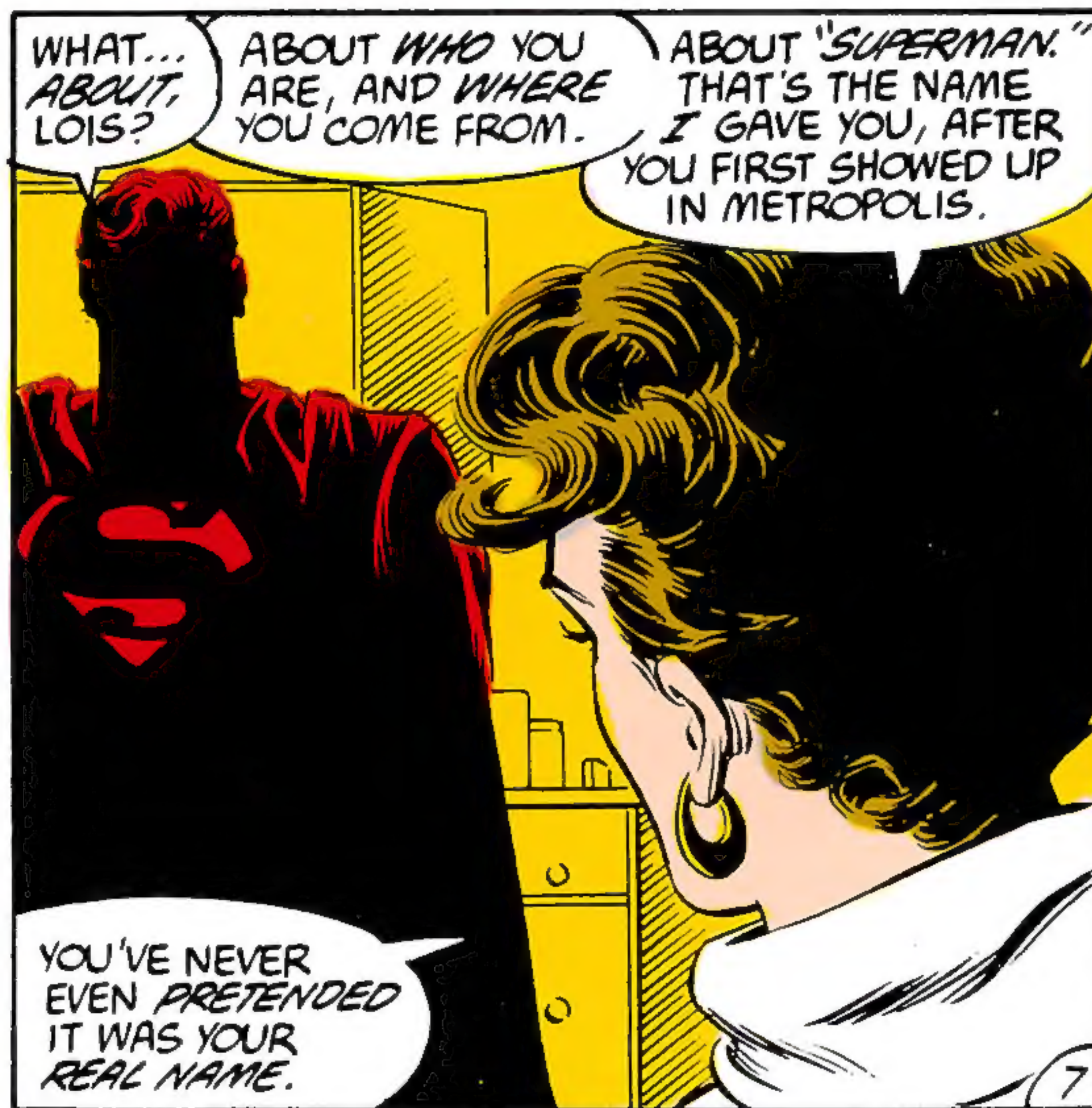
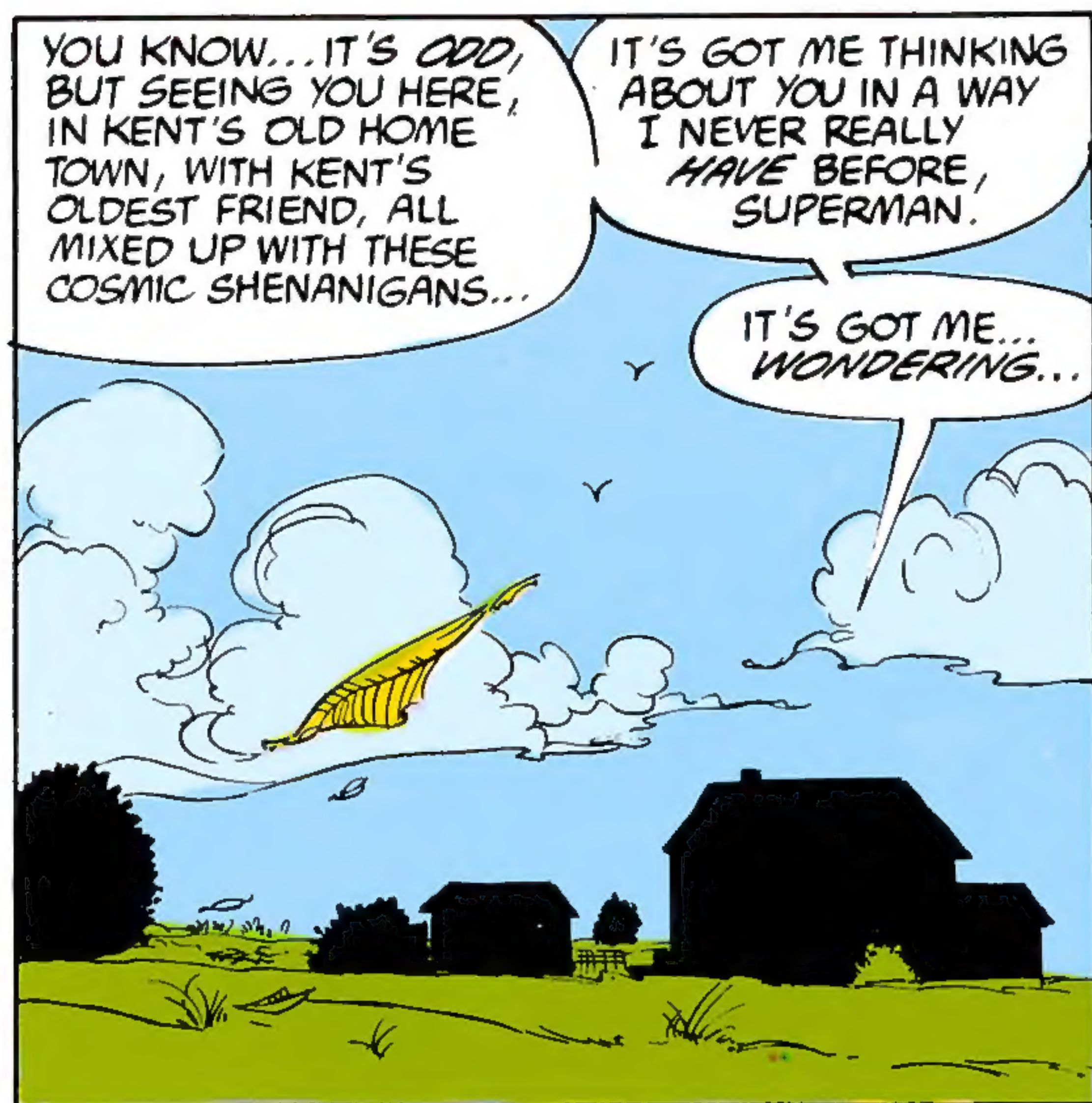
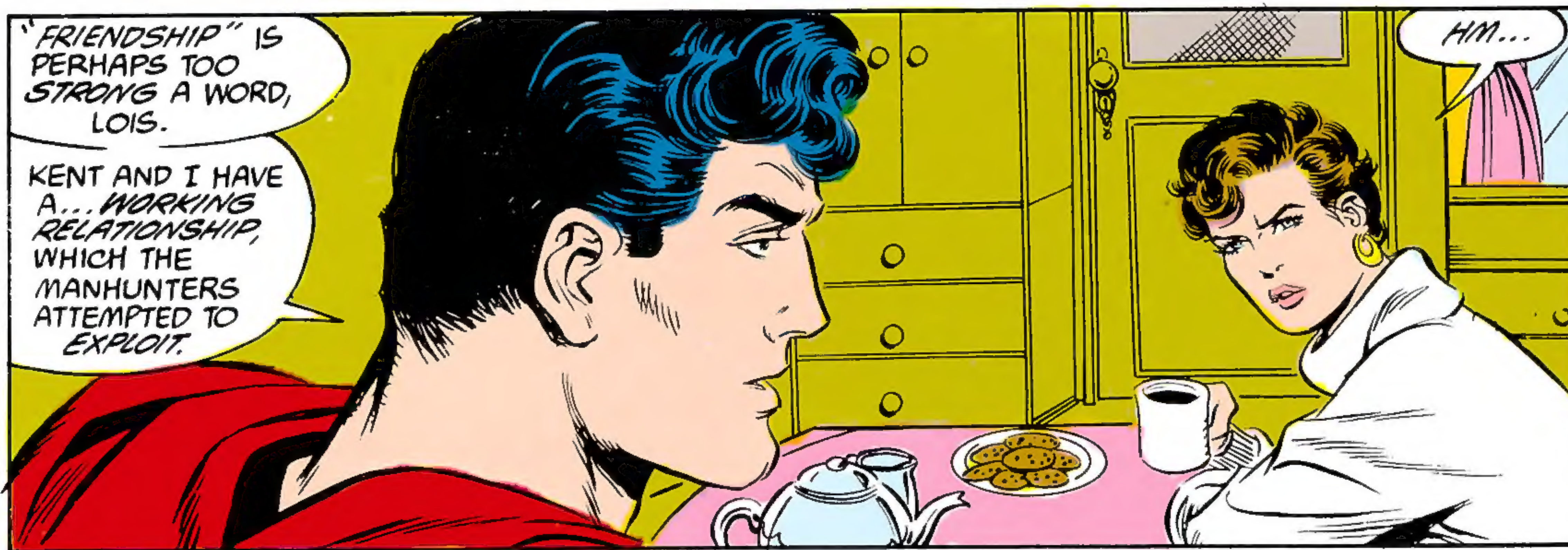
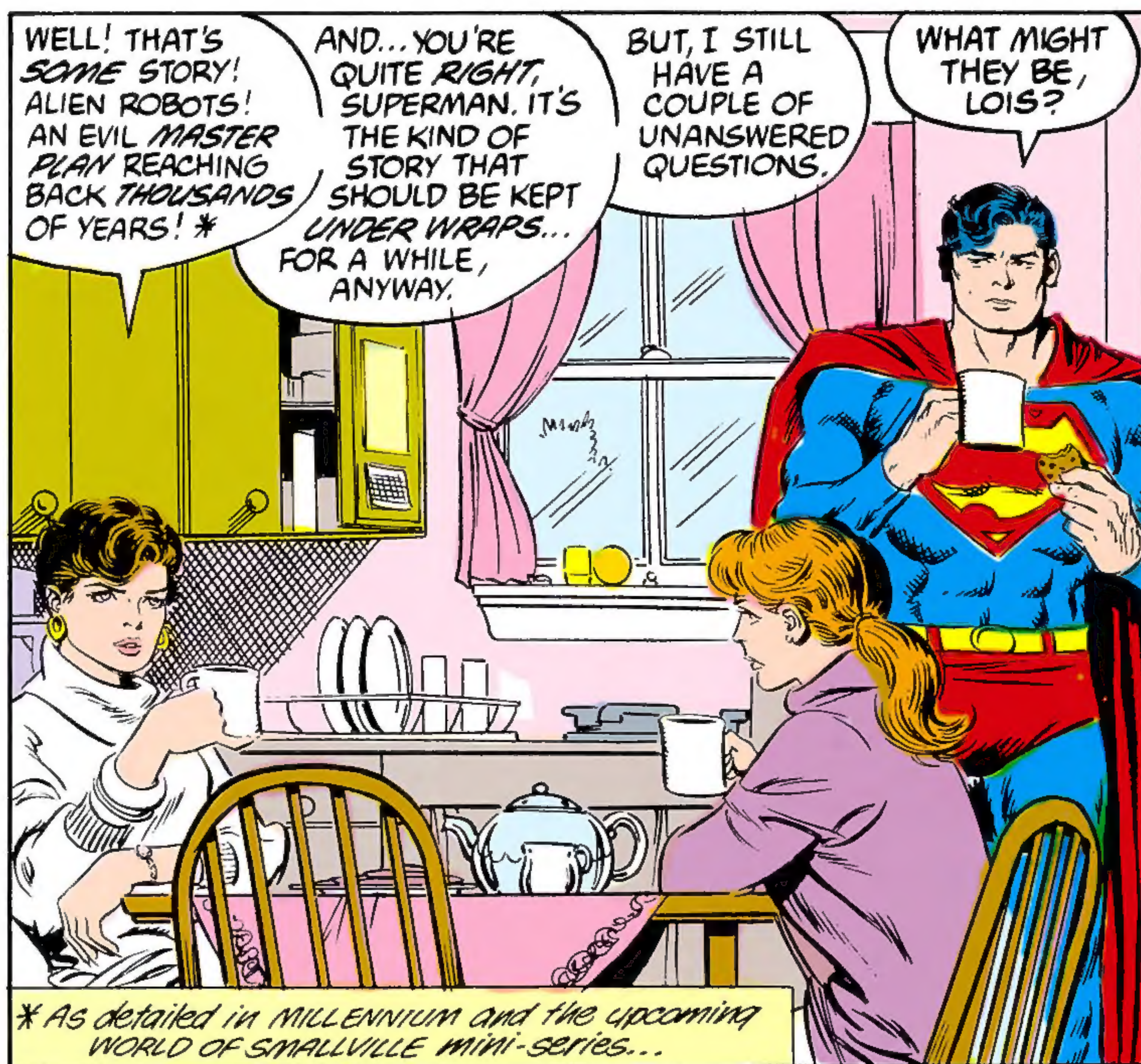


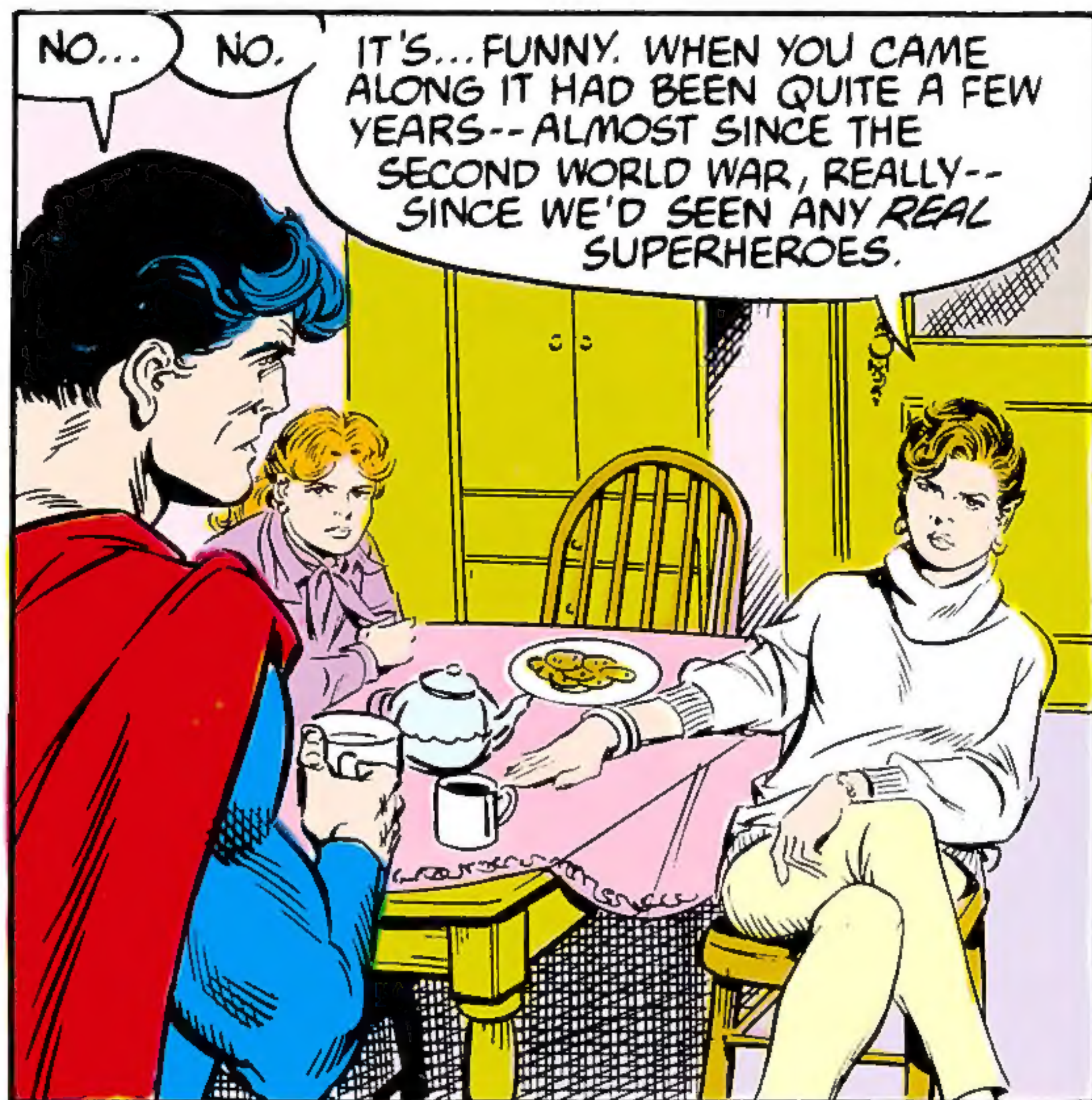






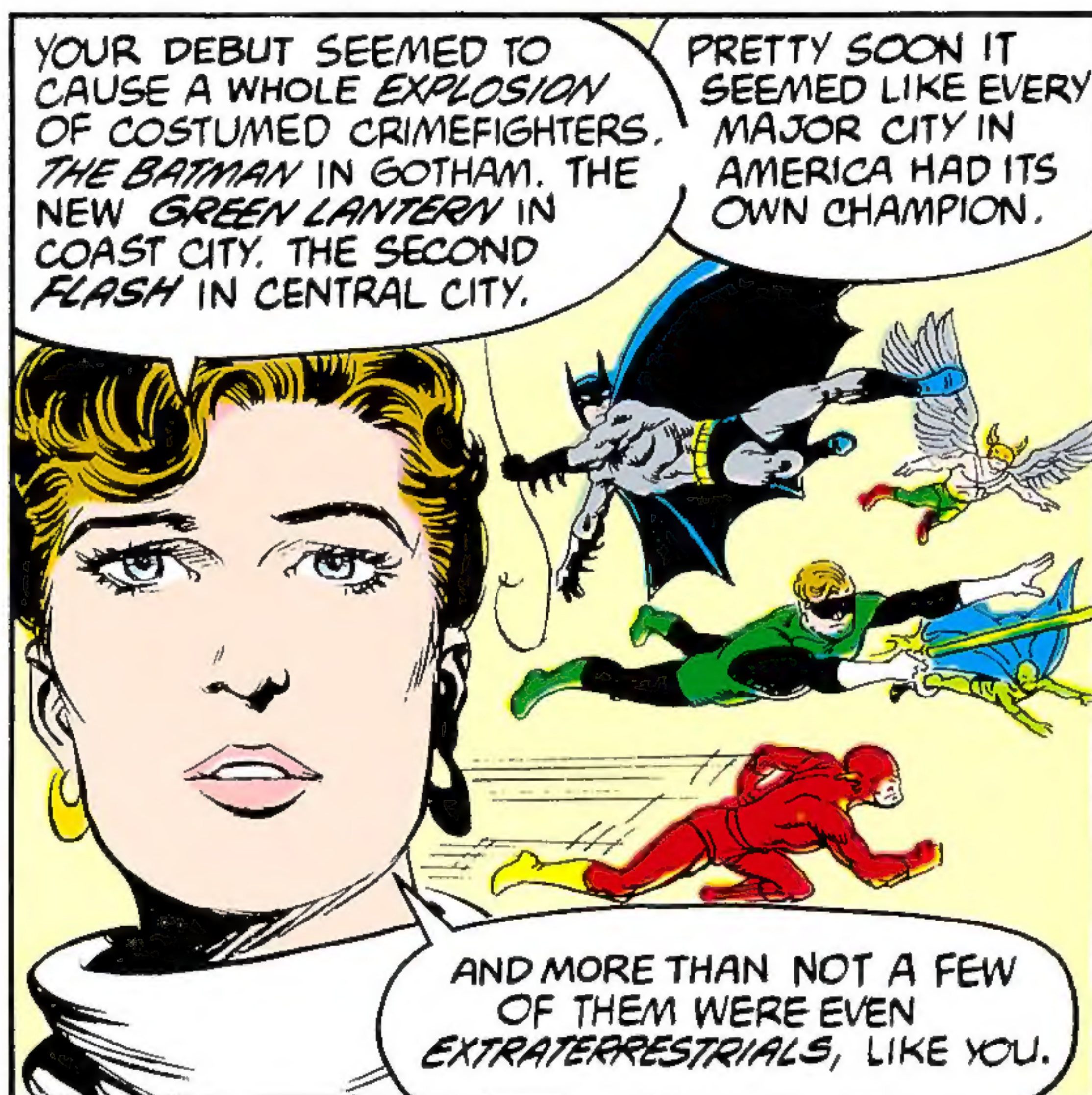






NO... NO.

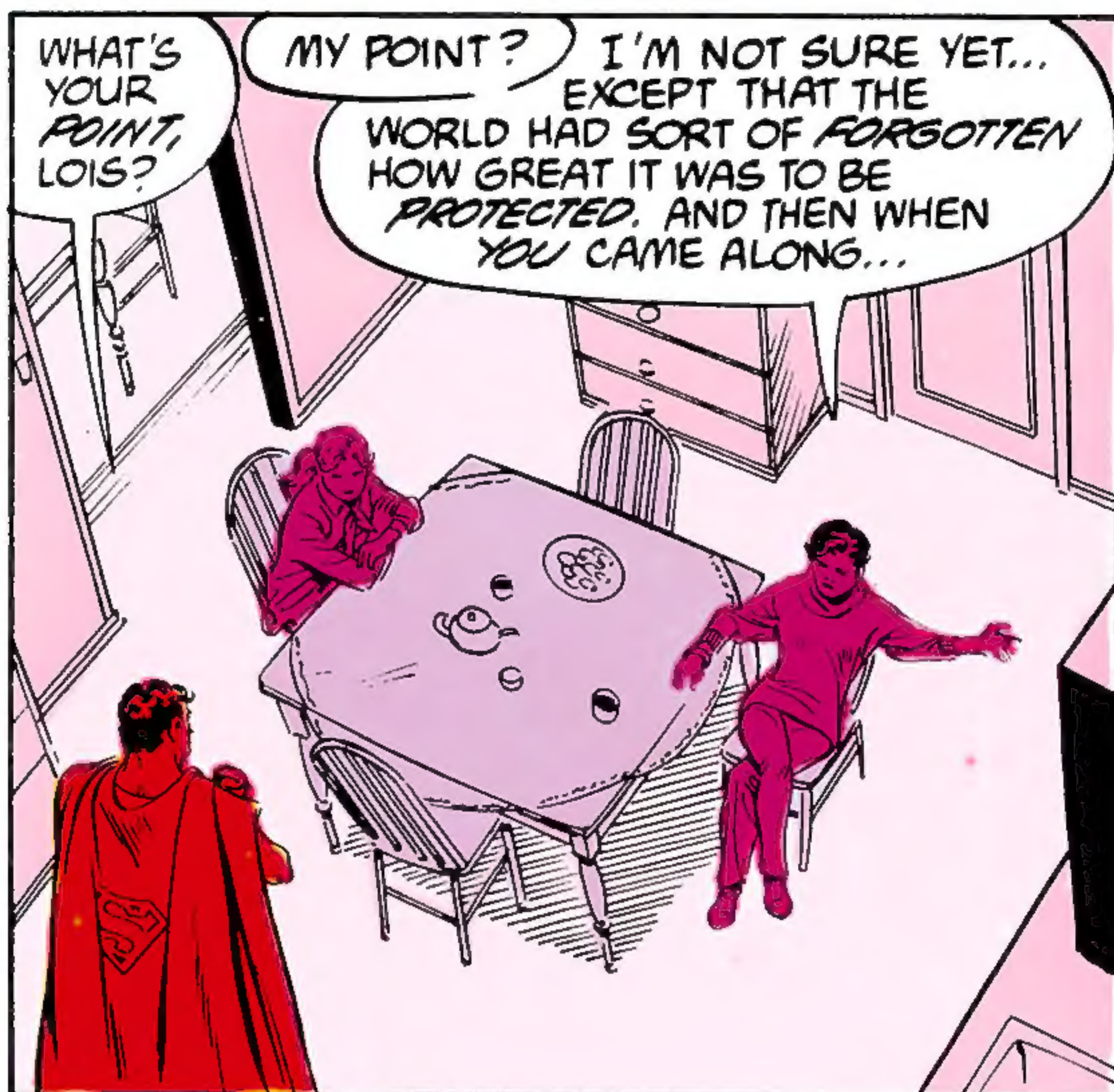
IT'S... FUNNY. WHEN YOU CAME ALONG IT HAD BEEN QUITE A FEW YEARS-- ALMOST SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, REALLY-- SINCE WE'D SEEN ANY *REAL* SUPERHEROES.



YOUR DEBUT SEEMED TO CAUSE A WHOLE *EXPLOSION* OF COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTERS. *THE BATMAN* IN GOTHAM. THE NEW *GREEN LANTERN* IN COAST CITY. THE SECOND *FLASH* IN CENTRAL CITY.

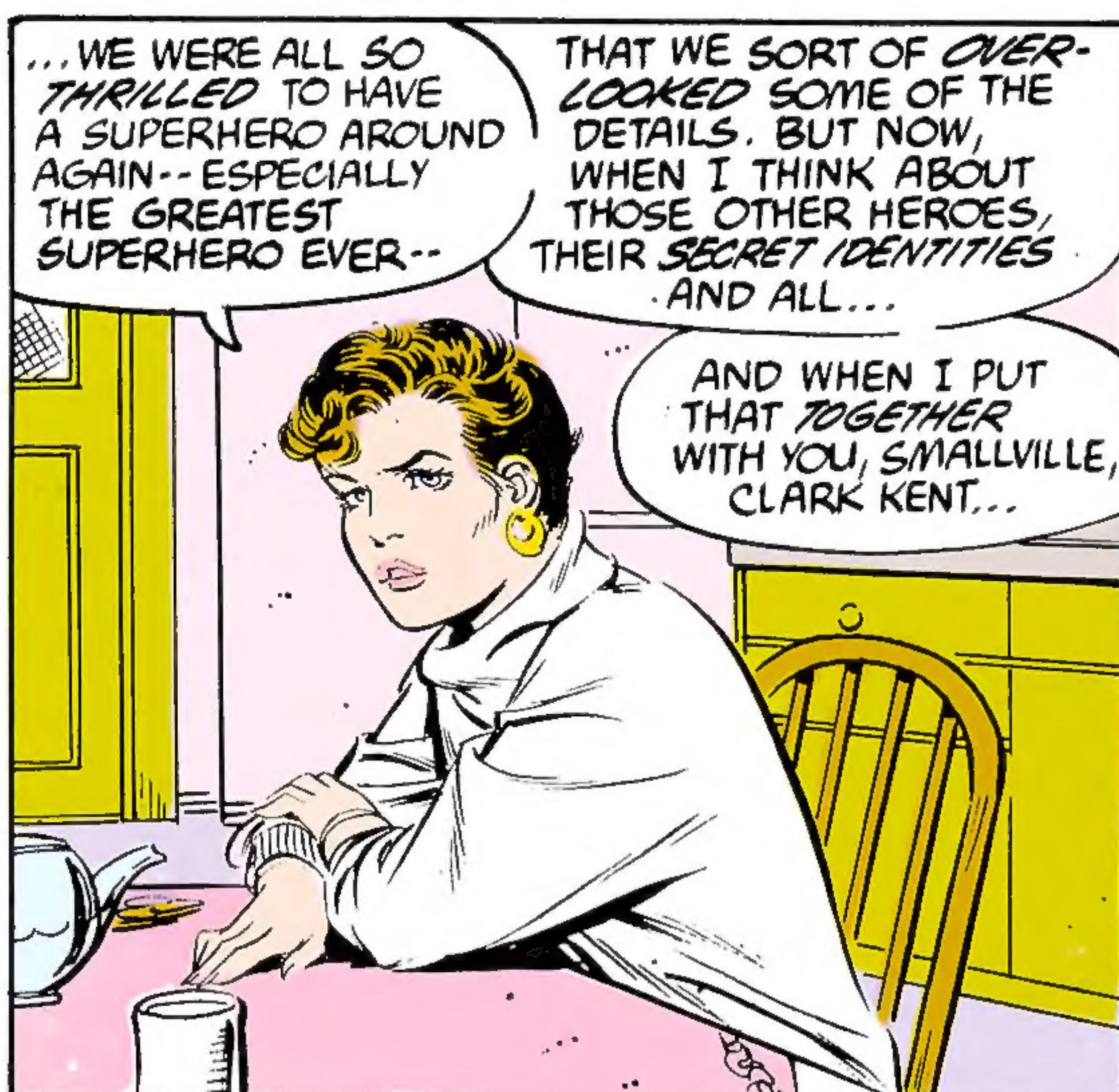
PRETTY SOON IT SEEMED LIKE EVERY MAJOR CITY IN AMERICA HAD ITS OWN CHAMPION.

AND MORE THAN NOT A FEW OF THEM WERE EVEN *EXTRATERRESTRIALS*, LIKE YOU.



WHAT'S YOUR *POINT*, LOIS?

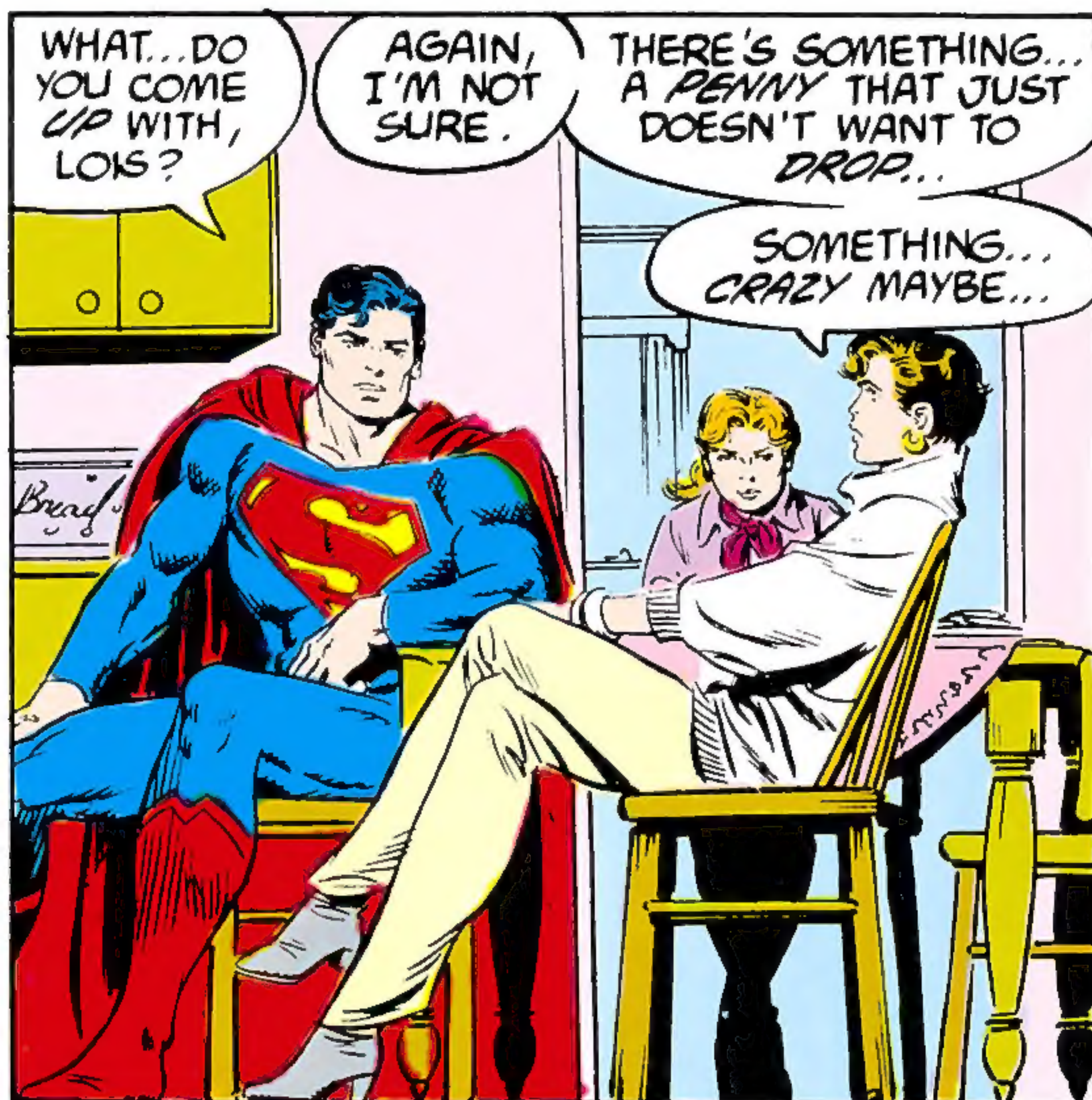
MY POINT? I'M NOT SURE YET... EXCEPT THAT THE WORLD HAD SORT OF *FORGOTTEN* HOW GREAT IT WAS TO BE *PROTECTED*. AND THEN WHEN YOU CAME ALONG...



...WE WERE ALL SO *THRILLED* TO HAVE A SUPERHERO AROUND AGAIN-- ESPECIALLY THE GREATEST SUPERHERO EVER--

THAT WE SORT OF *OVER-LOOKED* SOME OF THE DETAILS. BUT NOW, WHEN I THINK ABOUT THOSE OTHER HEROES, THEIR *SECRET IDENTITIES*... AND ALL...

AND WHEN I PUT THAT *TOGETHER* WITH YOU, SMALLVILLE, CLARK KENT...



WHAT... DO YOU COME UP WITH, LOIS?

AGAIN, I'M NOT SURE.

THERE'S SOMETHING... A *PENNY* THAT JUST DOESN'T WANT TO *DROP*...

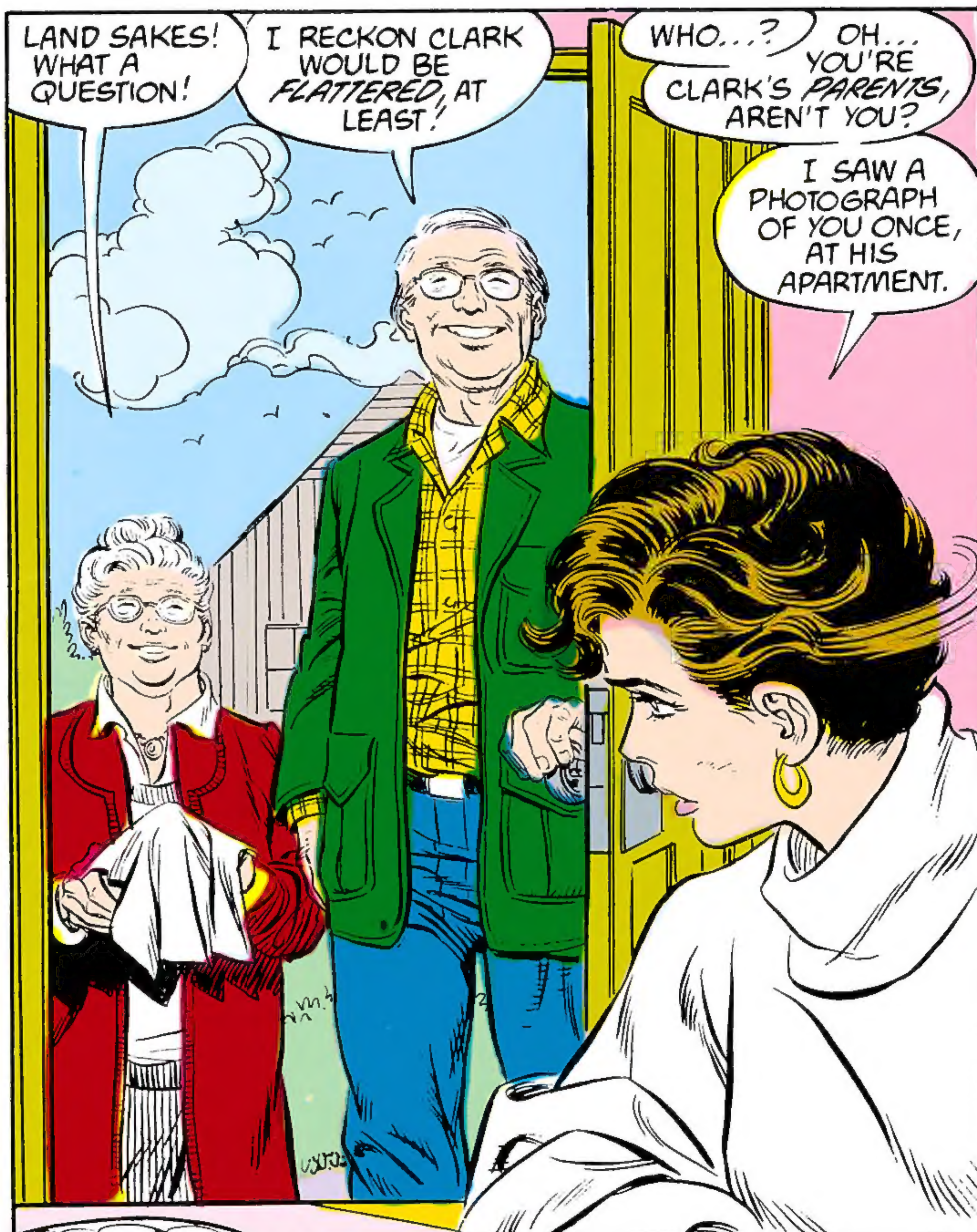
SOMETHING... *CRAZY* MAYBE...



SOMETHING LIKE...

WELL... I'LL ASK YOU, POINT BLANK...

SUPERMAN... ARE YOU CLARK KENT?

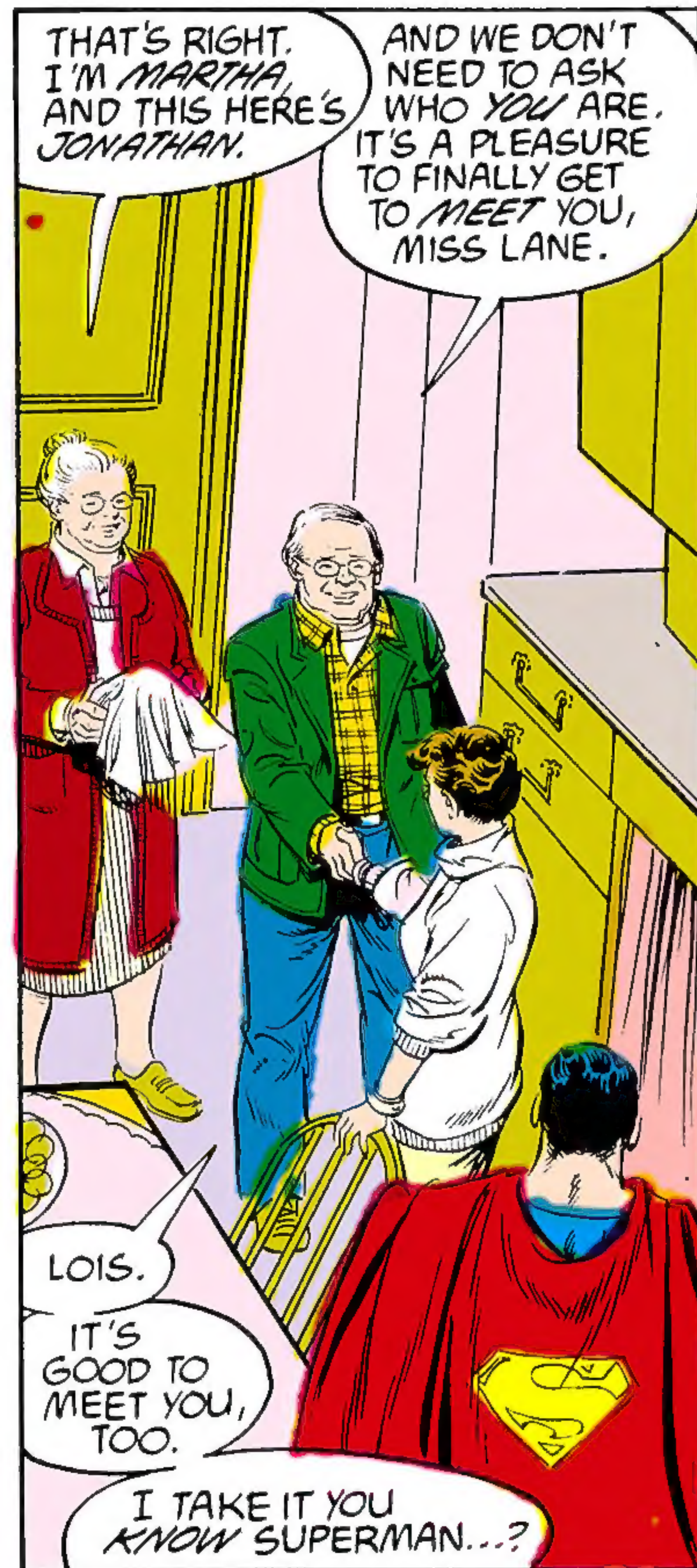


LAND SAKES!
WHAT A
QUESTION!

I RECKON CLARK
WOULD BE
FLATTERED, AT
LEAST!

WHO...?
OH...
YOU'RE
CLARK'S *PARENTS*,
AREN'T YOU?

I SAW A
PHOTOGRAPH
OF YOU ONCE,
AT HIS
APARTMENT.



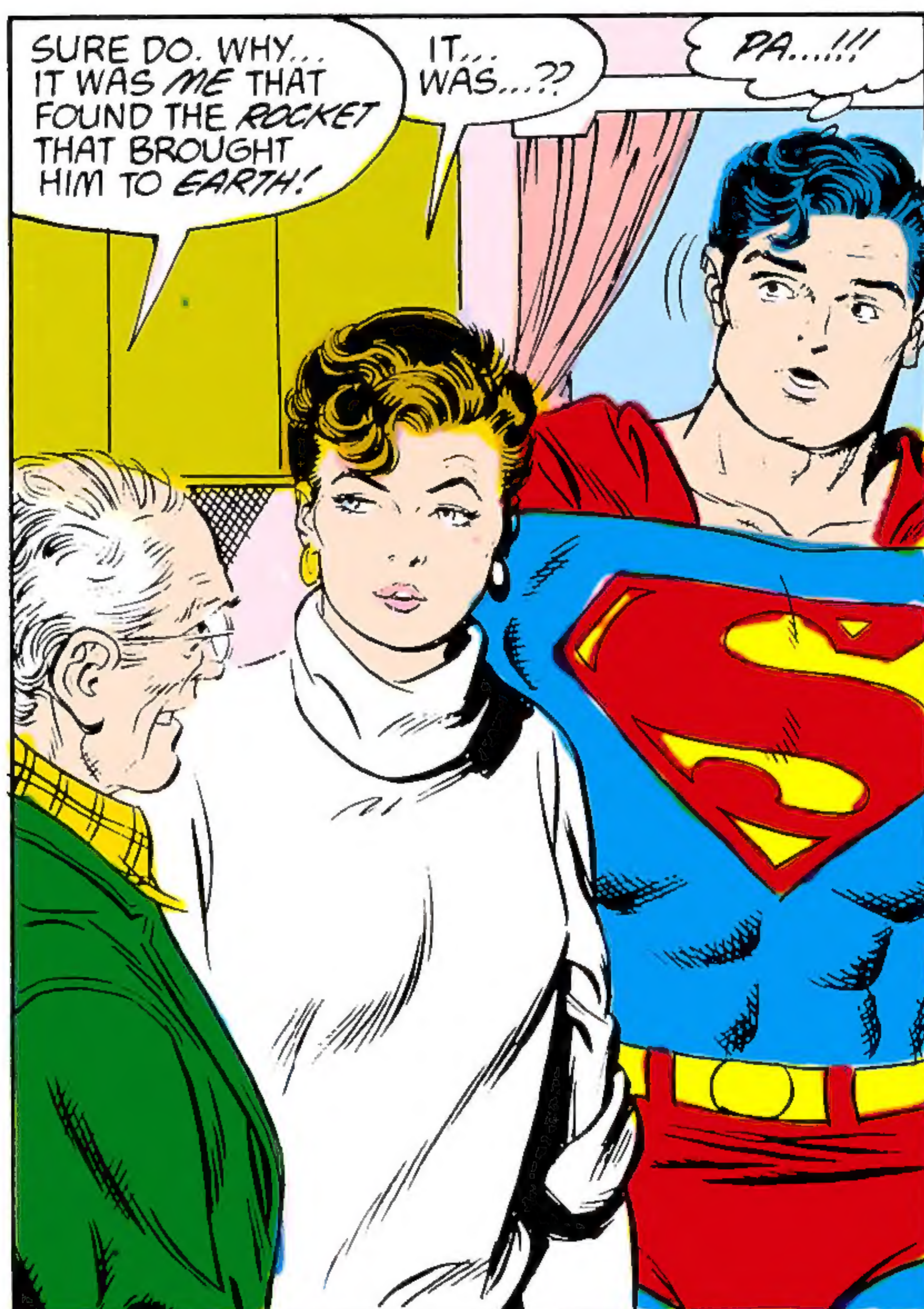
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M *MARTHA*,
AND THIS HERE'S
JONATHAN.

AND WE DON'T
NEED TO ASK
WHO *YOU* ARE.
IT'S A PLEASURE
TO FINALLY GET
TO *MEET* YOU,
MISS LANE.

LOIS.

IT'S
GOOD TO
MEET YOU,
TOO.

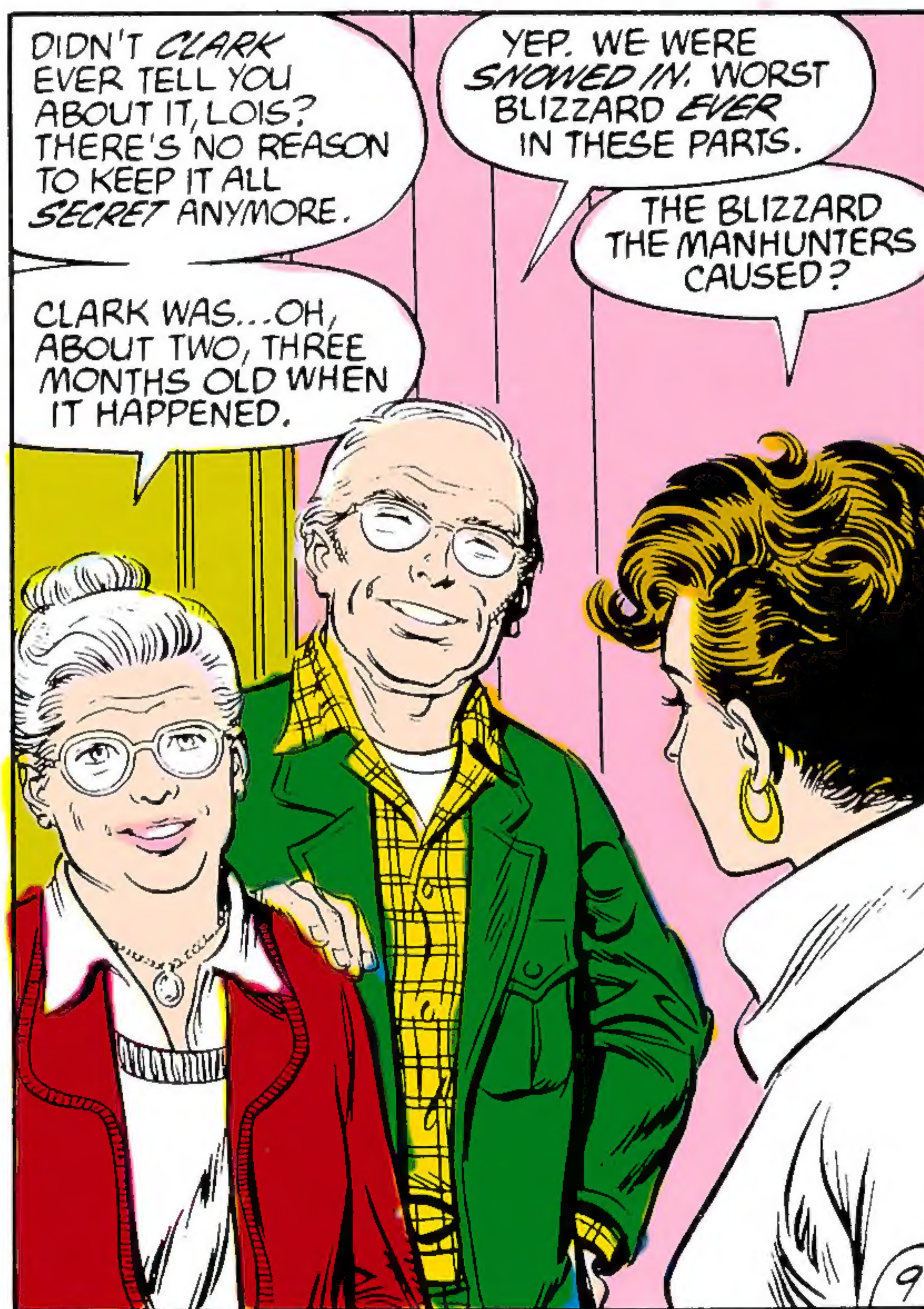
I TAKE IT YOU
KNOW SUPERMAN...?



SURE DO. WHY...
IT WAS *ME* THAT
FOUND THE *ROCKET*
THAT BROUGHT
HIM TO *EARTH*!

IT...
WAS...??

PA...!!!

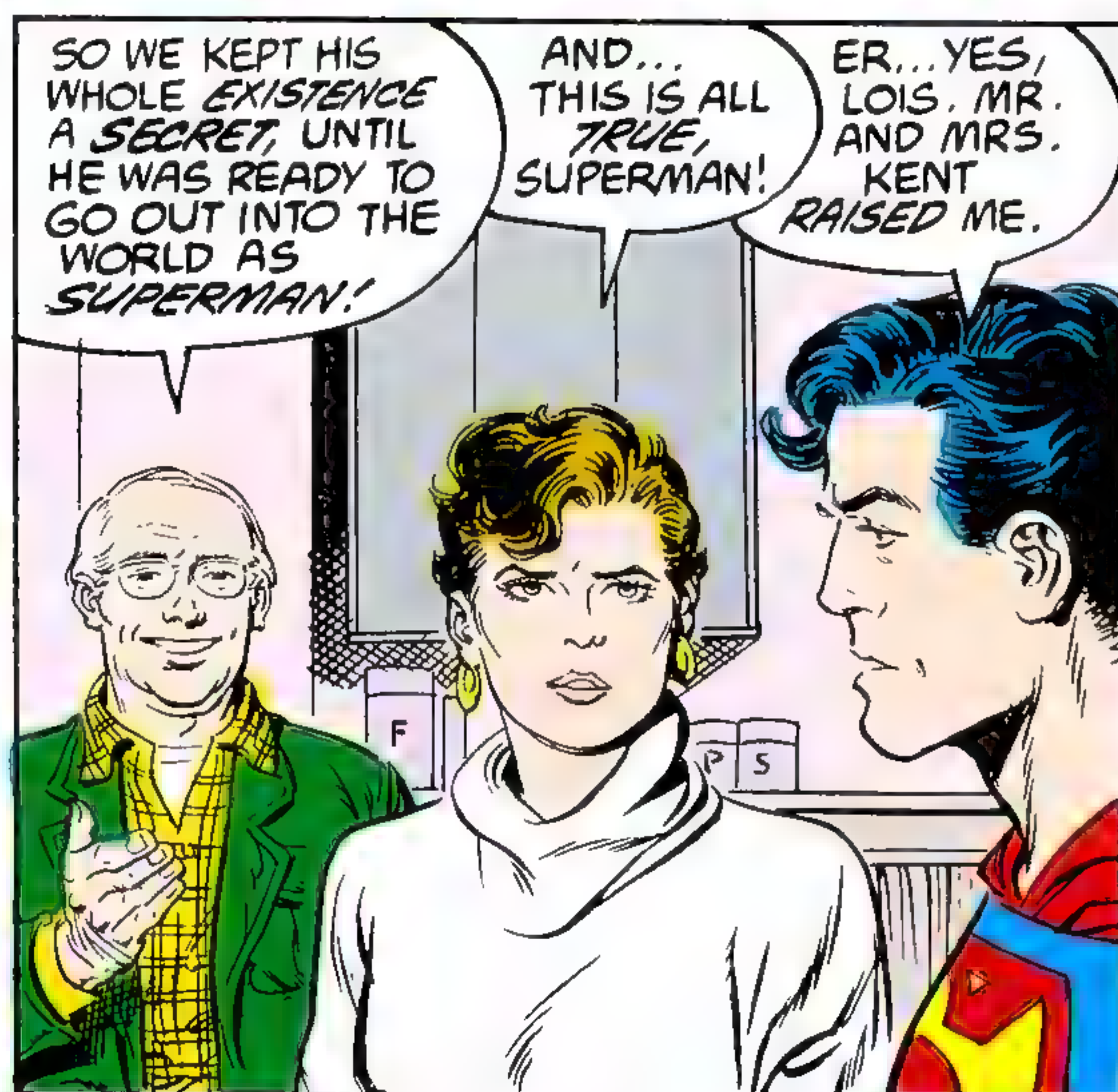
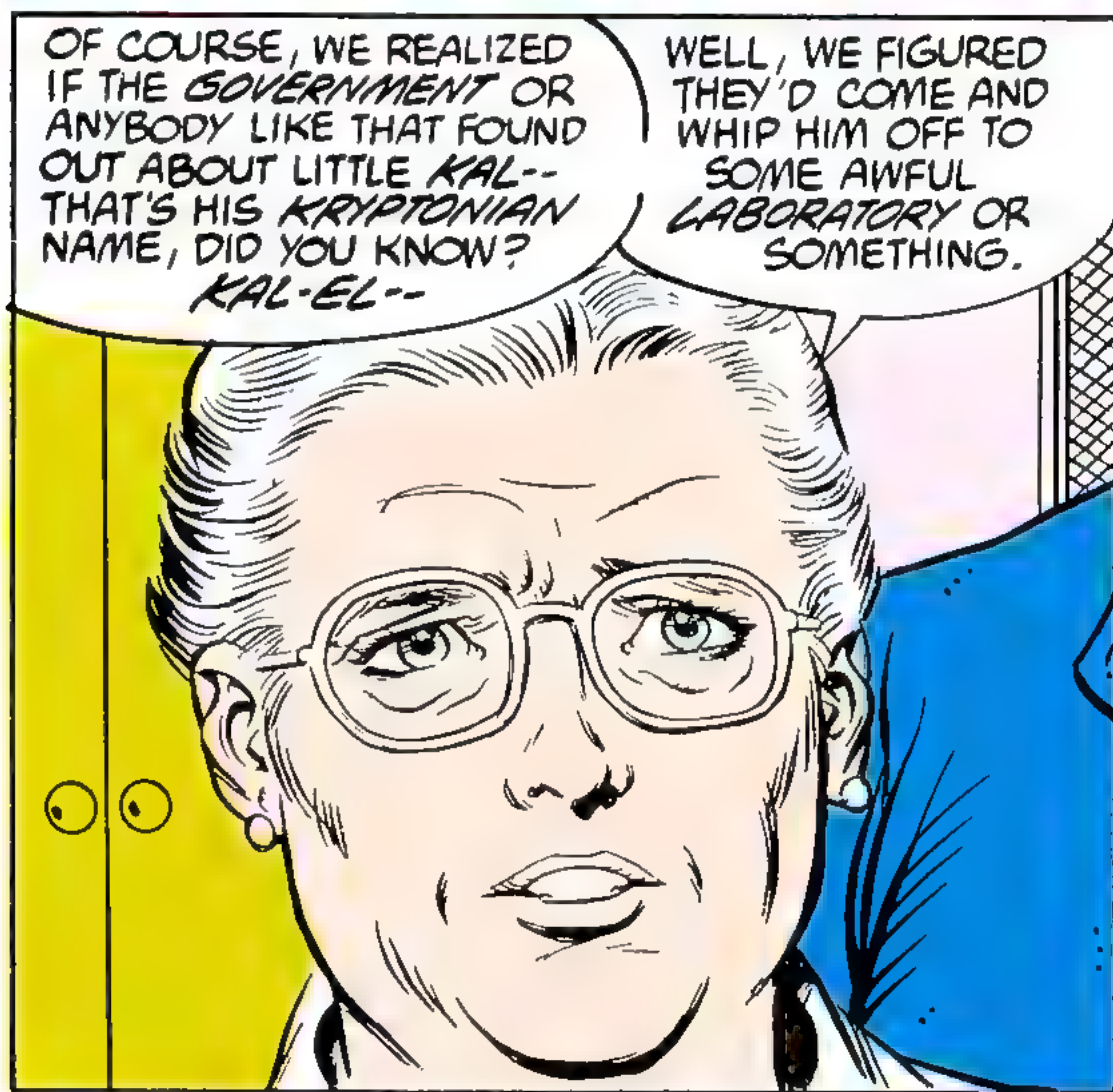
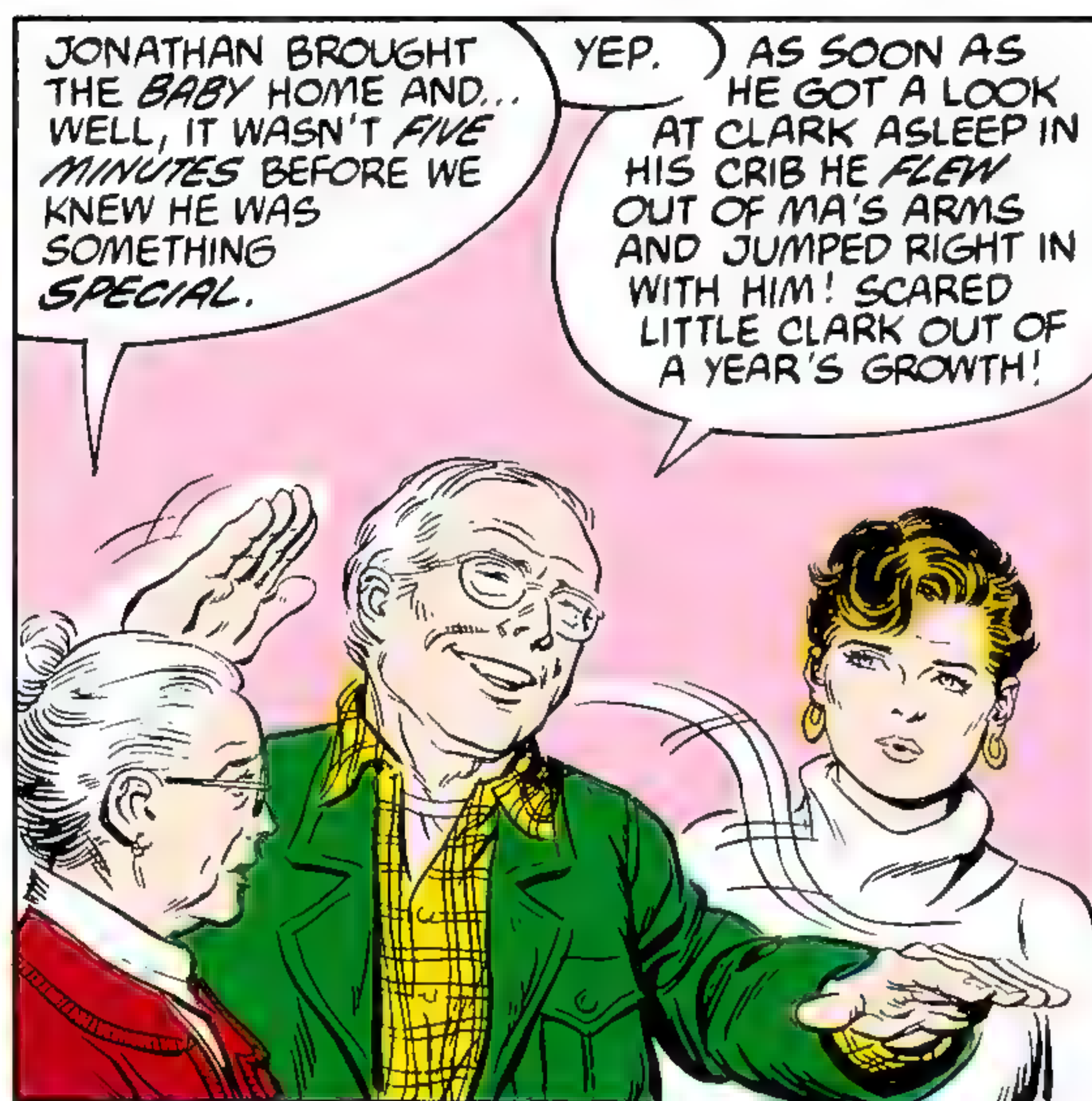
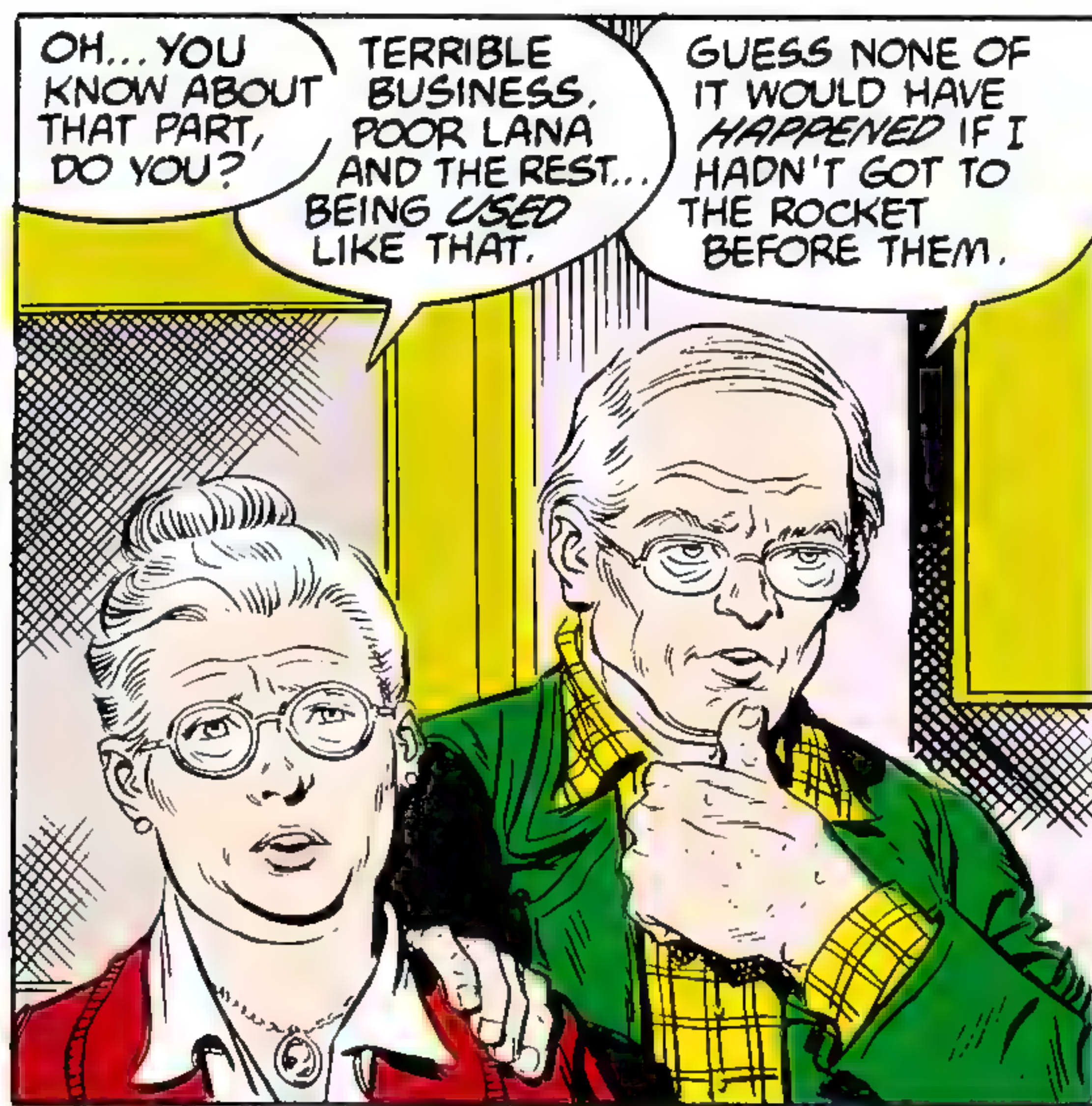


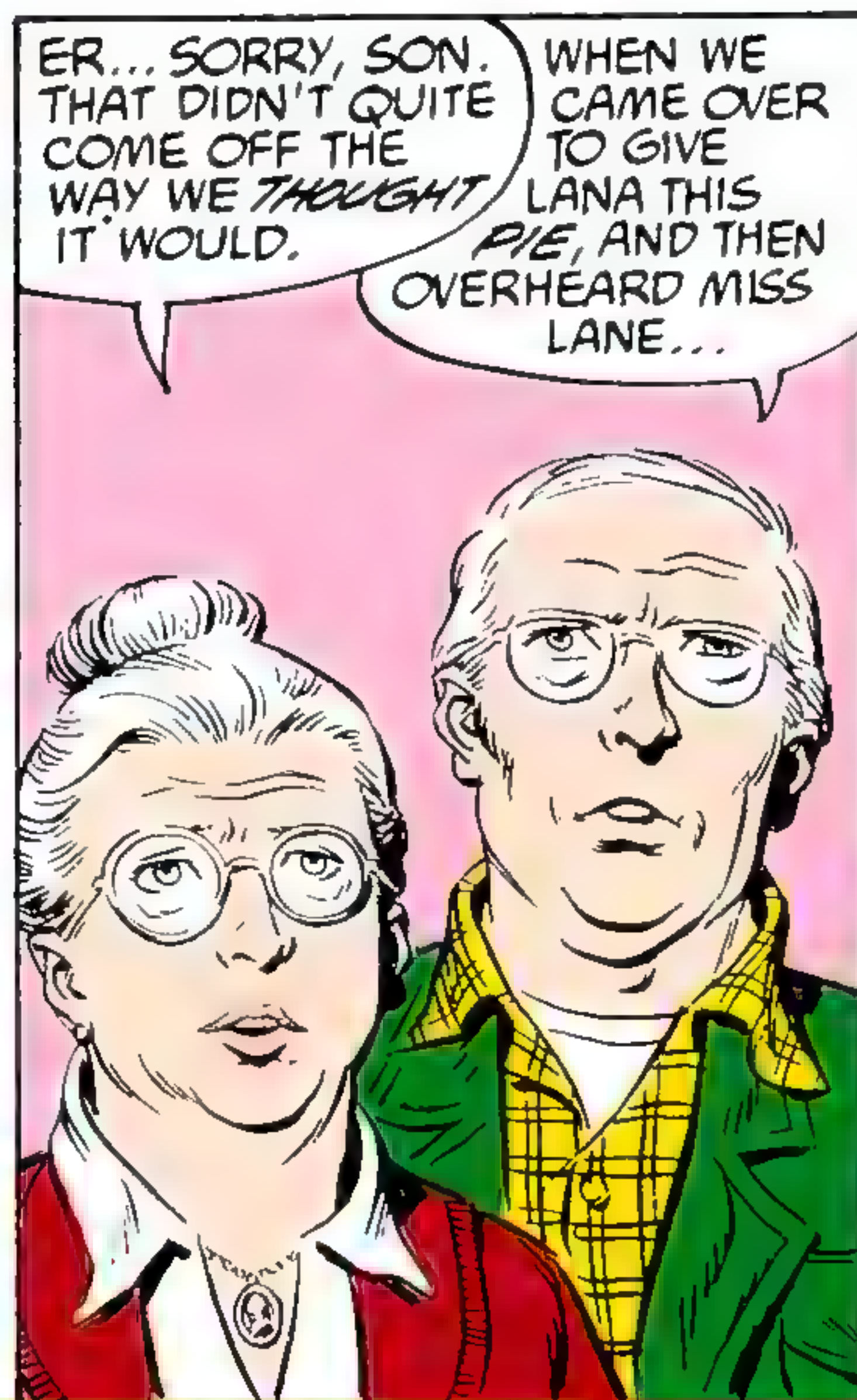
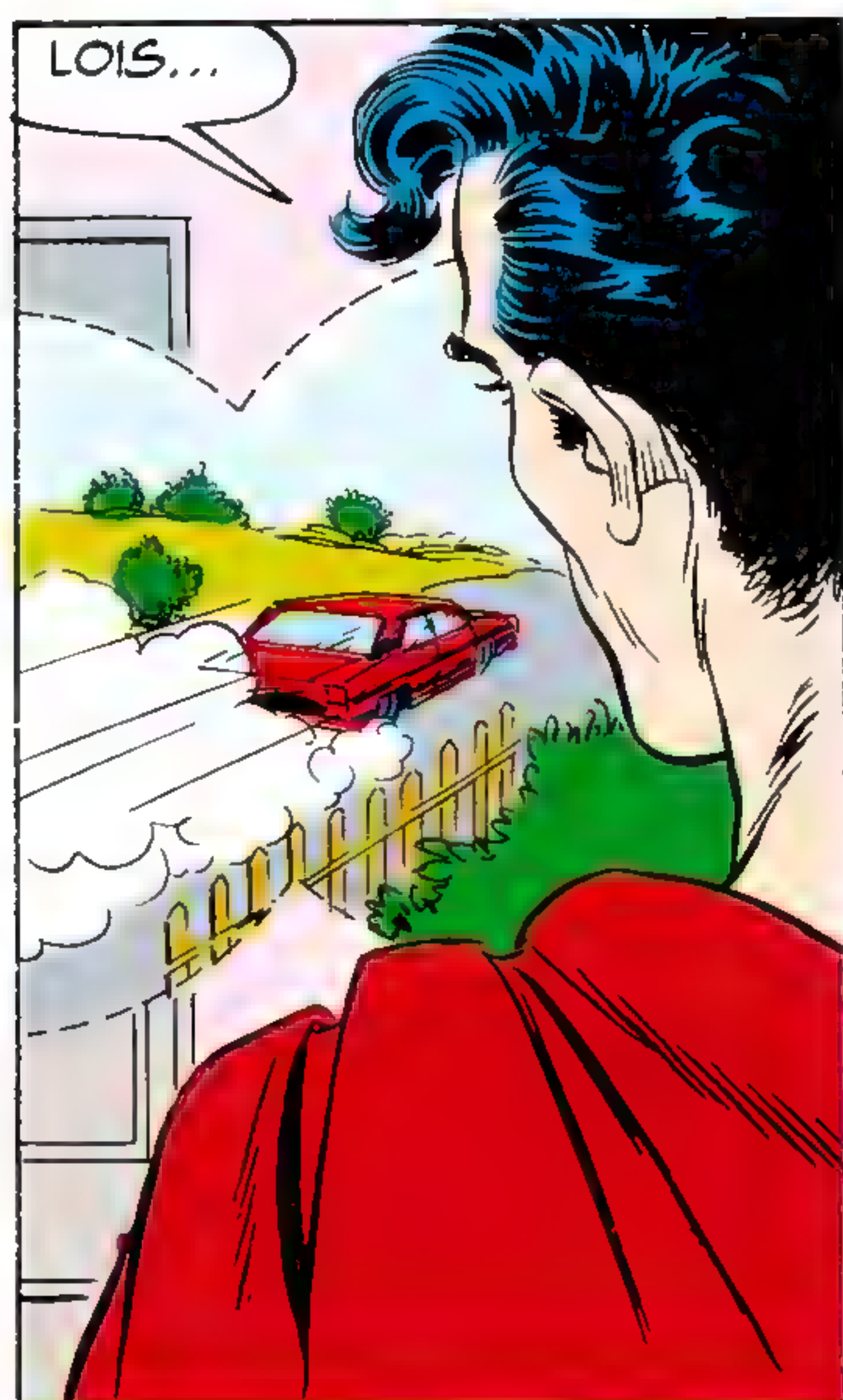
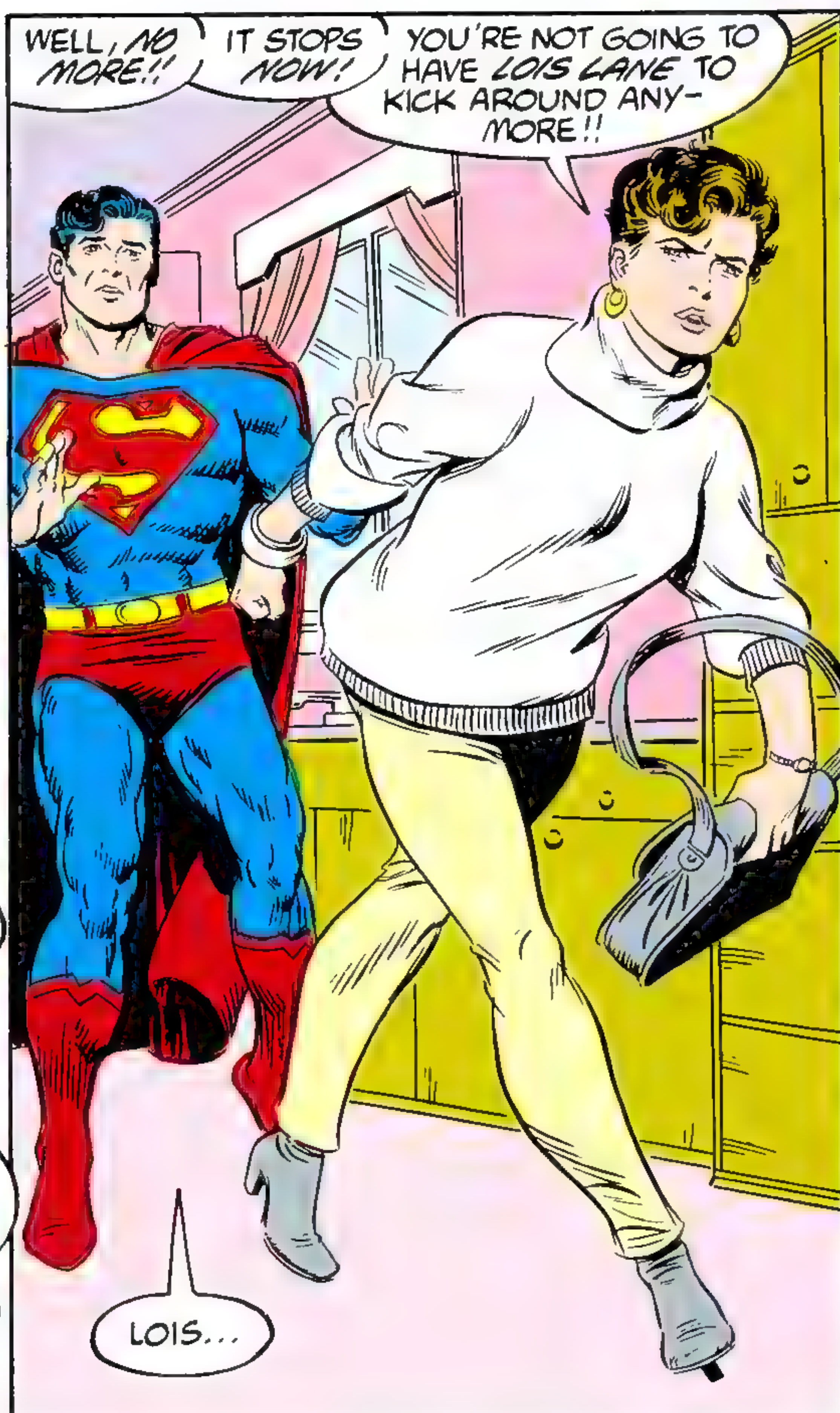
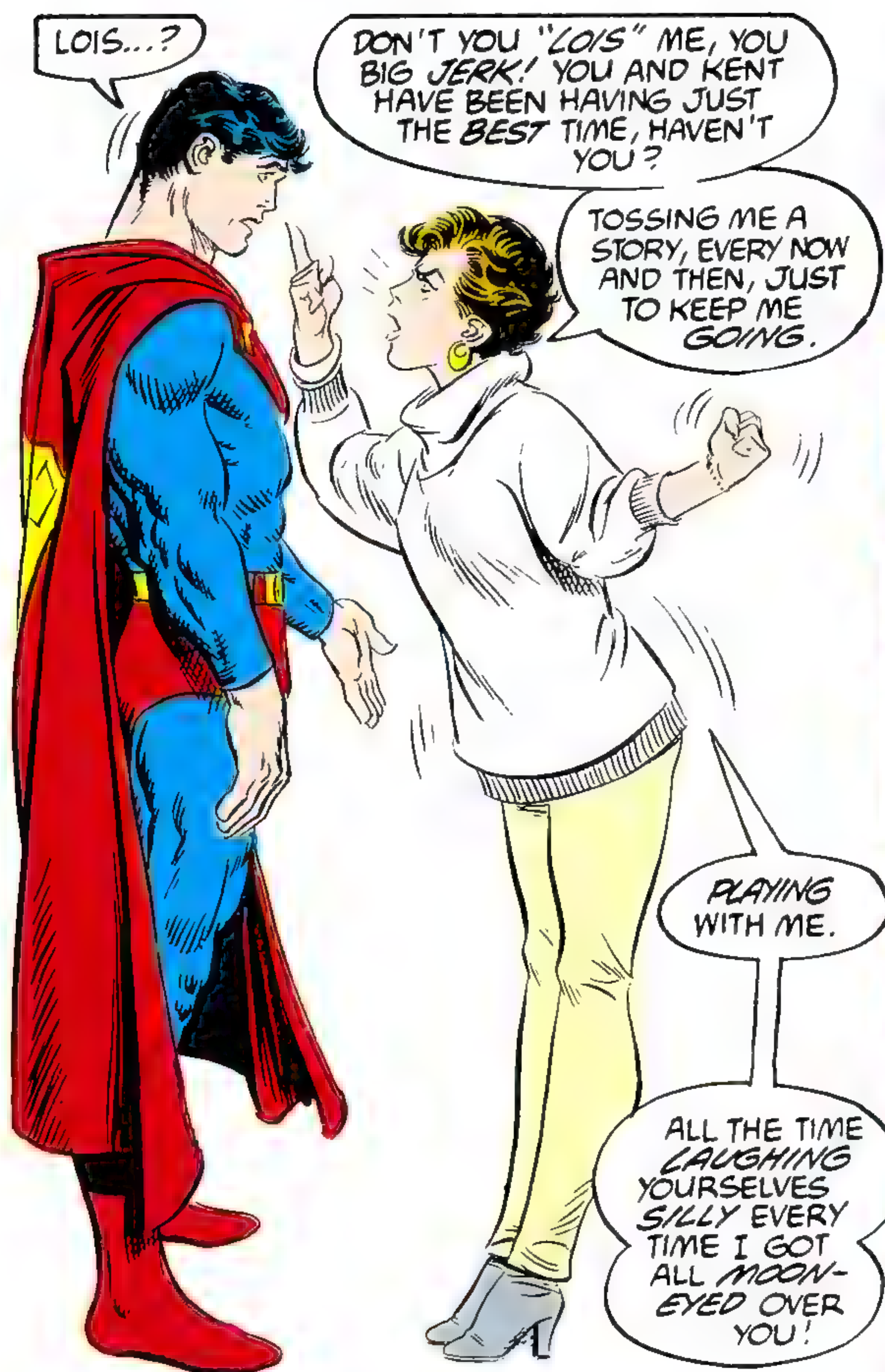
DIDN'T *CLARK*
EVER TELL YOU
ABOUT IT, LOIS?
THERE'S NO REASON
TO KEEP IT ALL
SECRET ANYMORE.

CLARK WAS...OH,
ABOUT TWO, THREE
MONTHS OLD WHEN
IT HAPPENED.

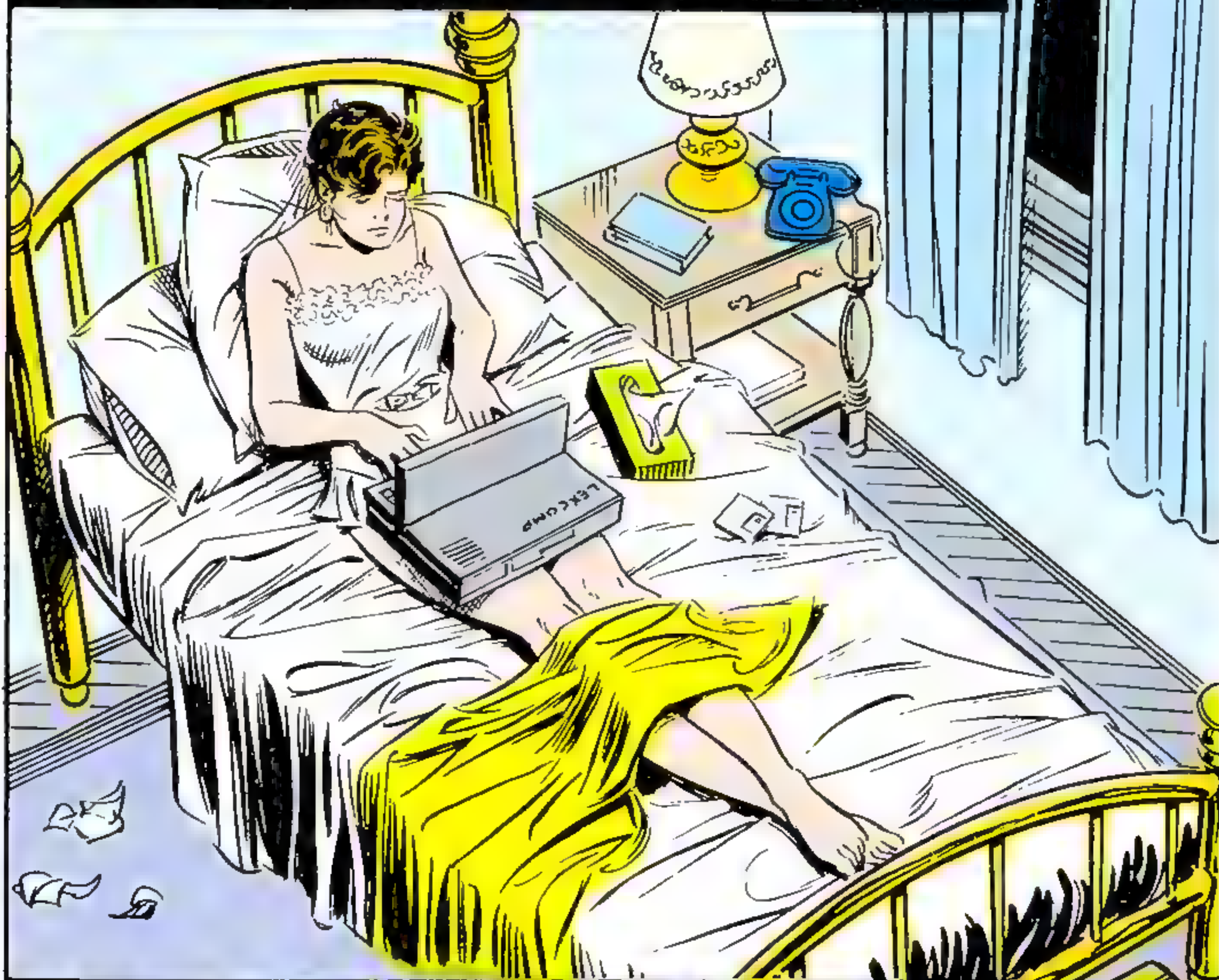
YEP. WE WERE
SNOWED IN. WORST
BLIZZARD *EVER*
IN THESE PARTS.

THE BLIZZARD
THE MANHUNTERS
CAUSED?





Tonight I understand the meaning of betrayal. I understand what it feels like, to have known a man, looked up to him...



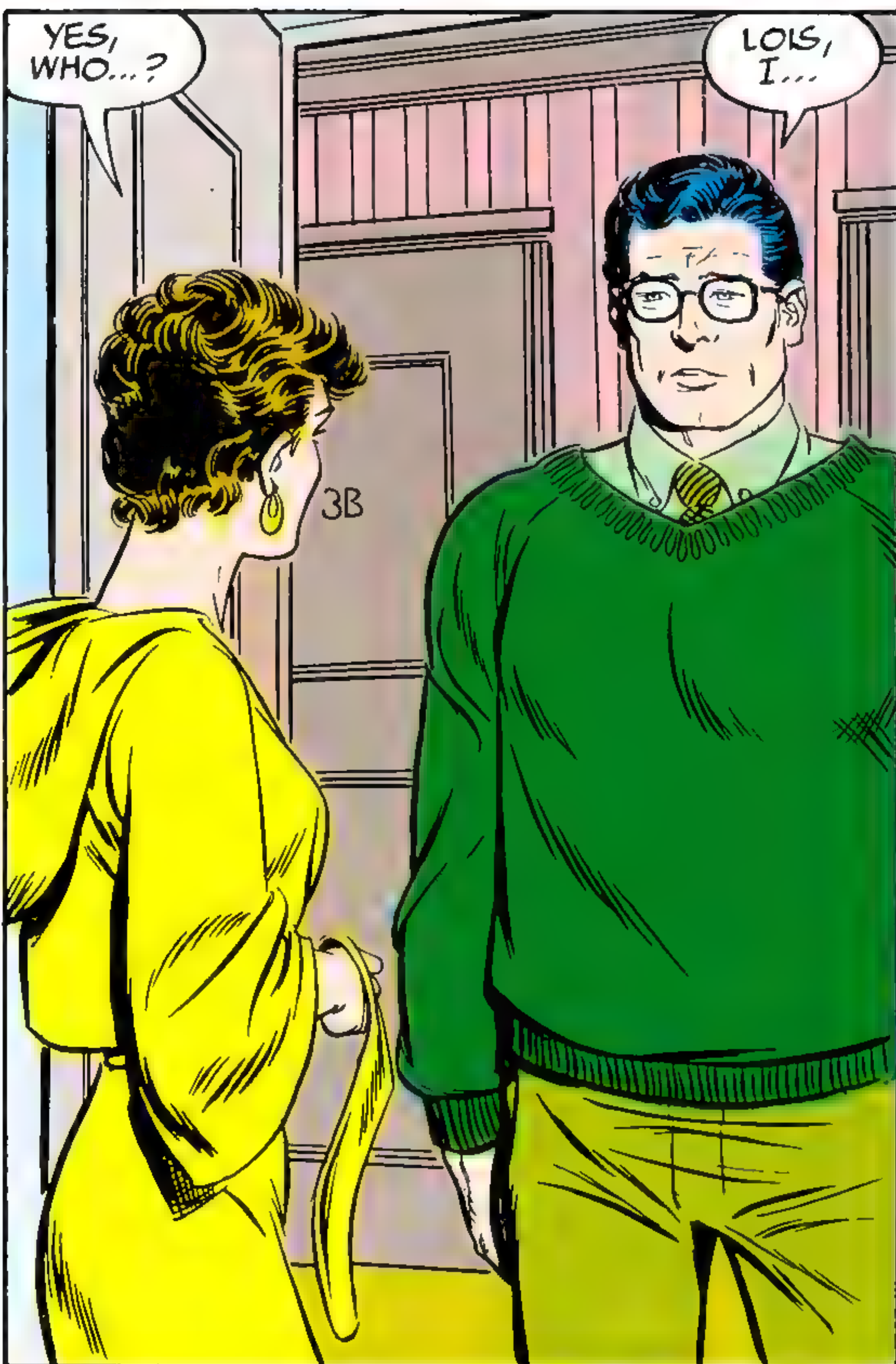
...yes, perhaps even loved him... only to discover he was playing a game. A cruel game. That everything I thought I knew about him was a lie...

KNOCK KNOCK



JUST A MINUTE!

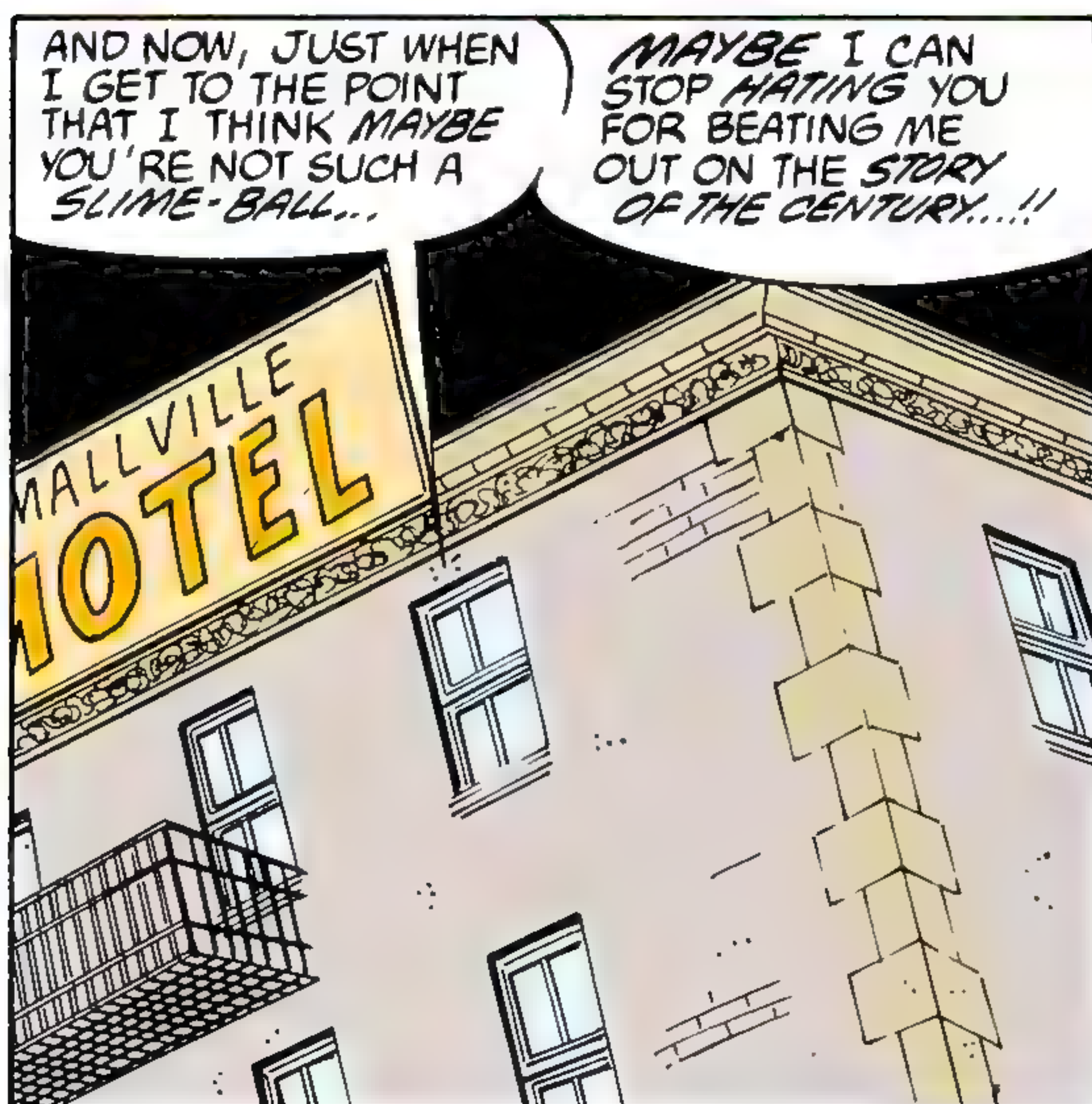
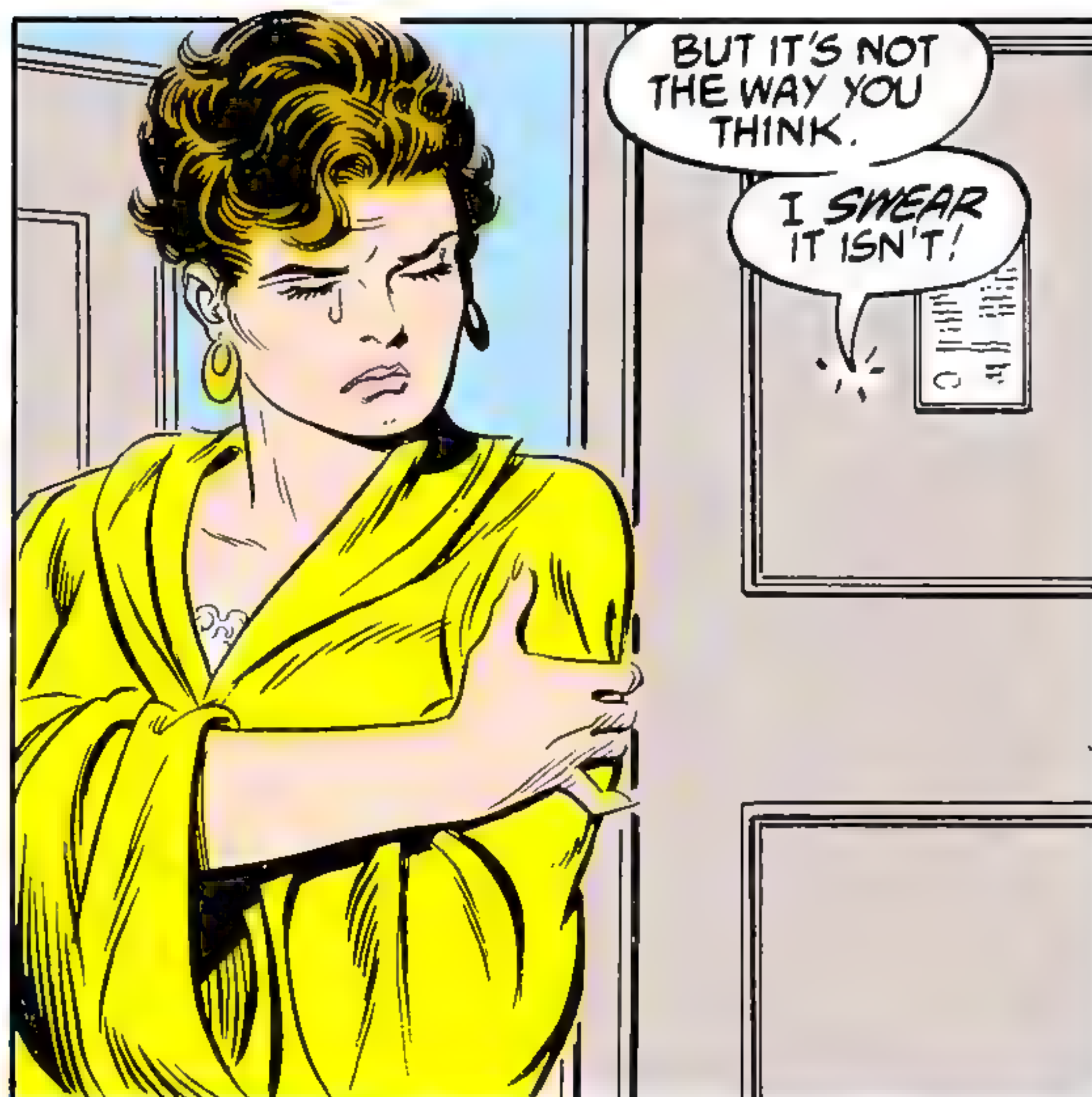
YES, WHO...?

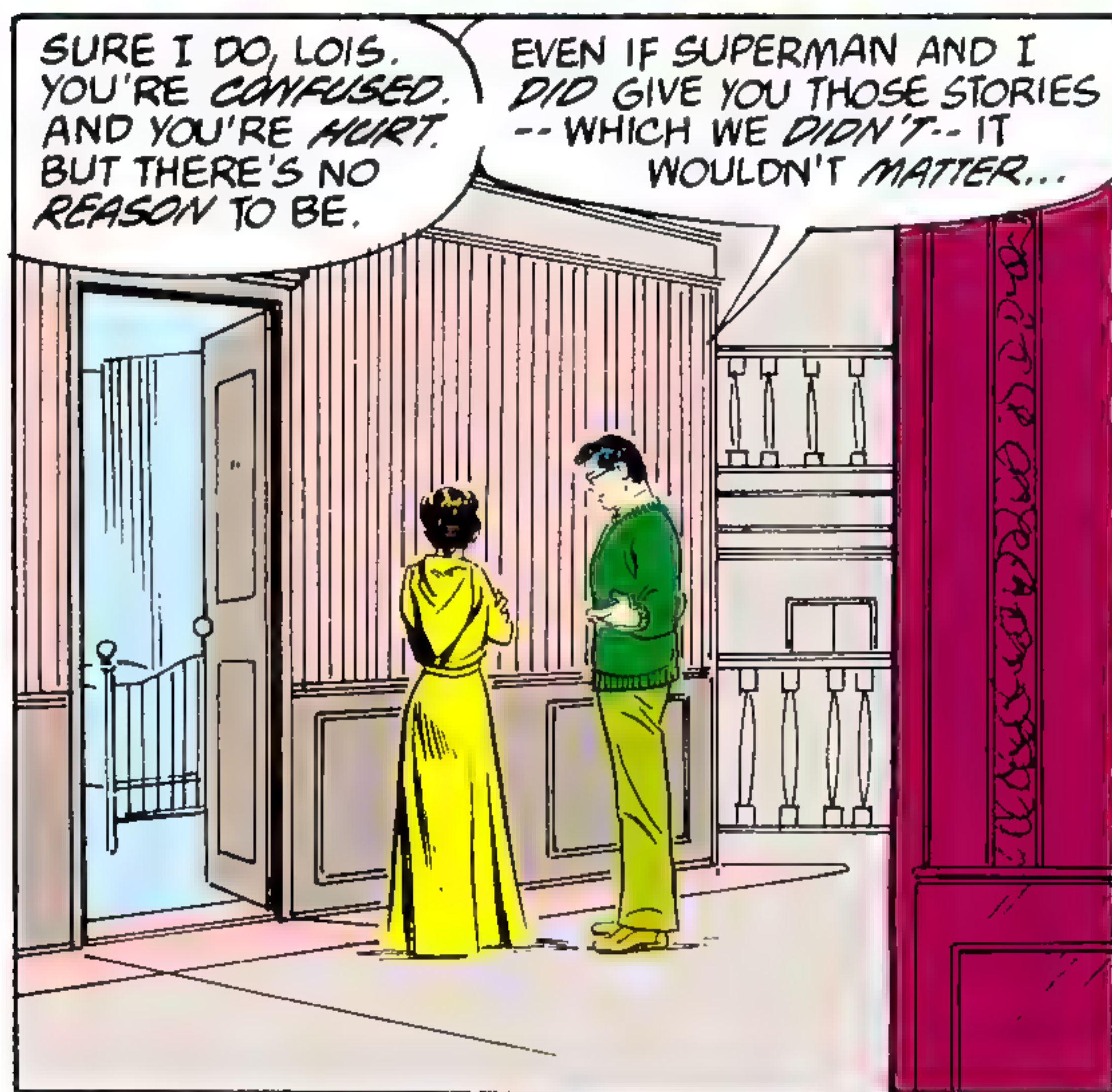
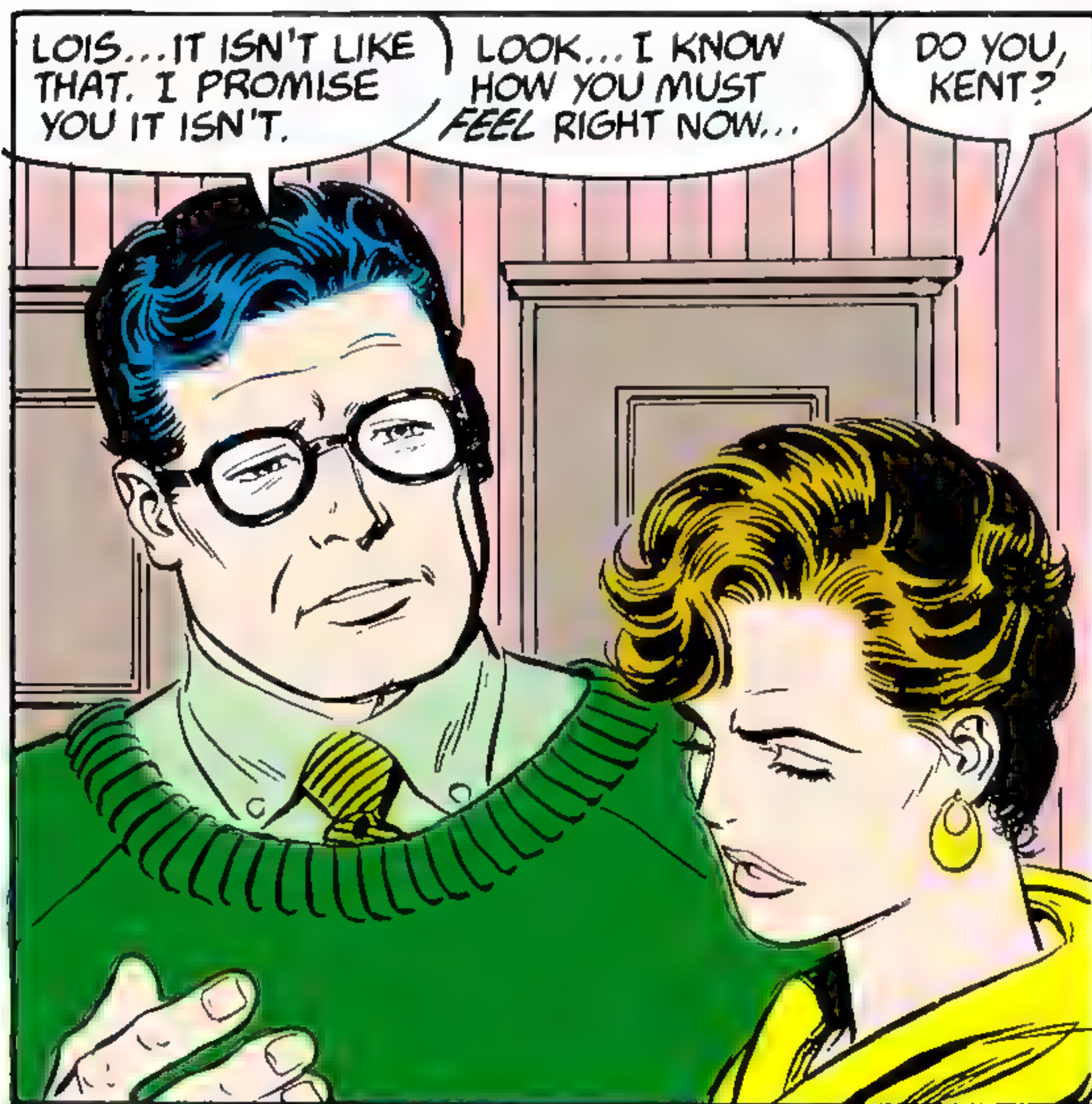


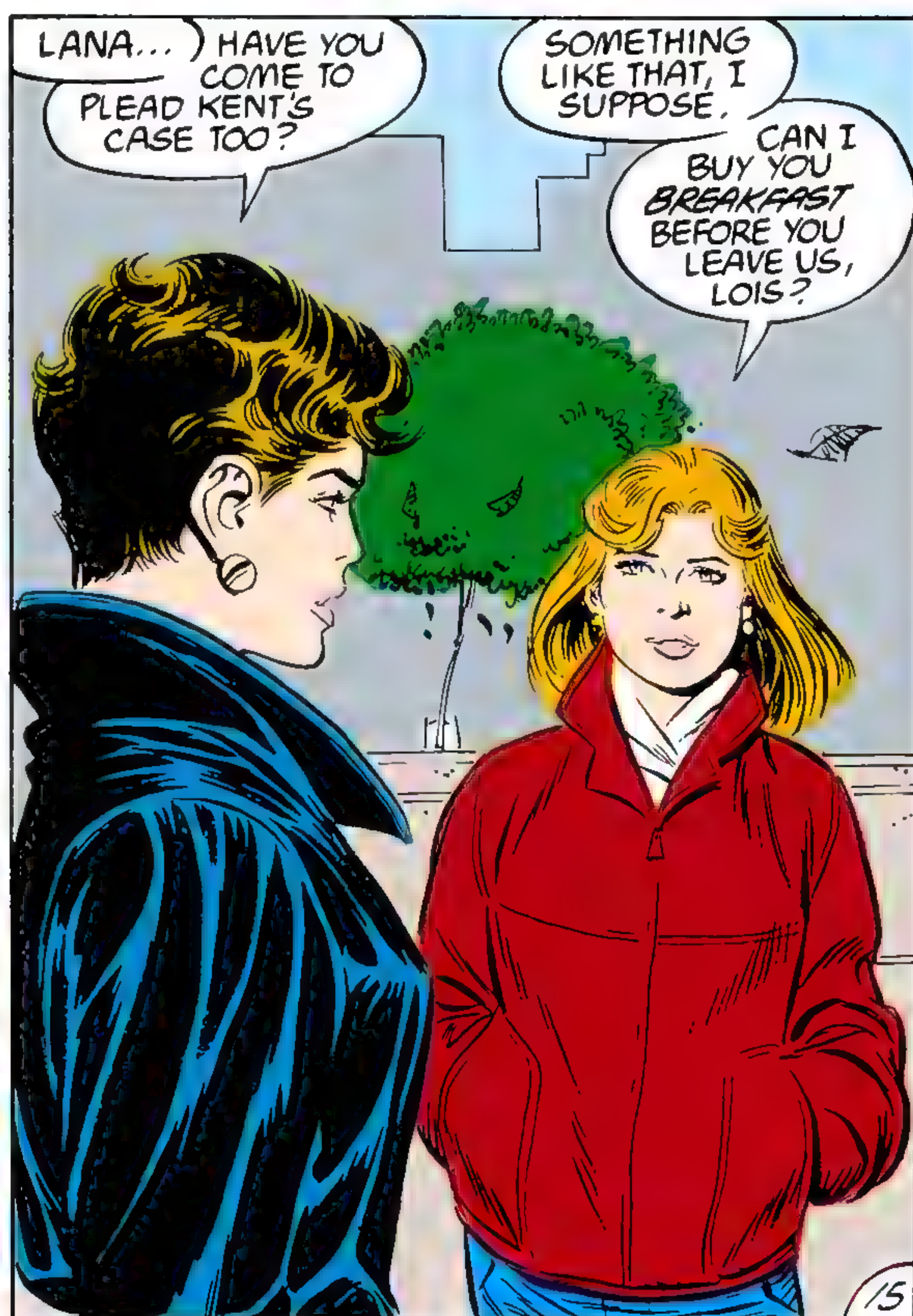
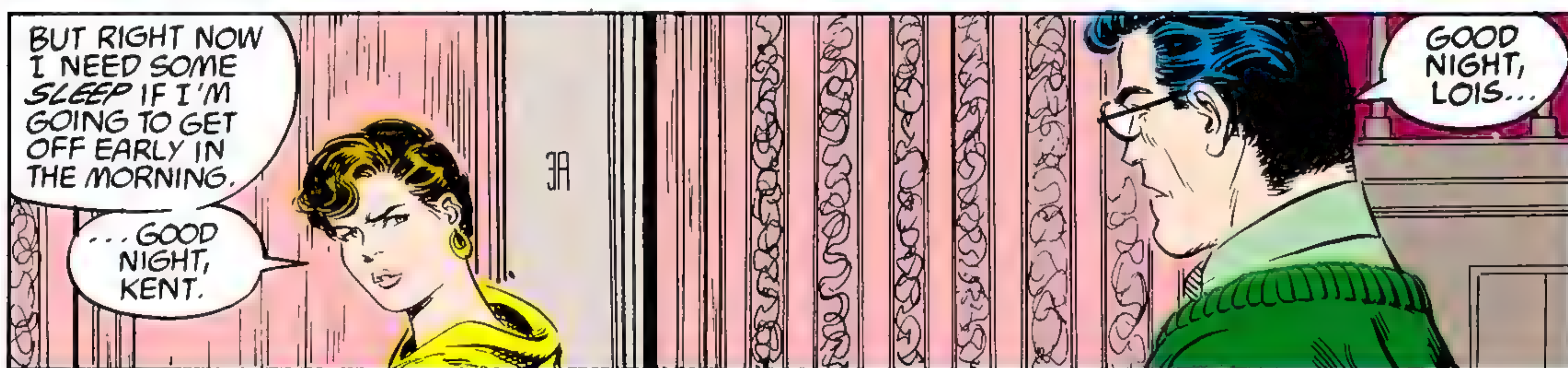
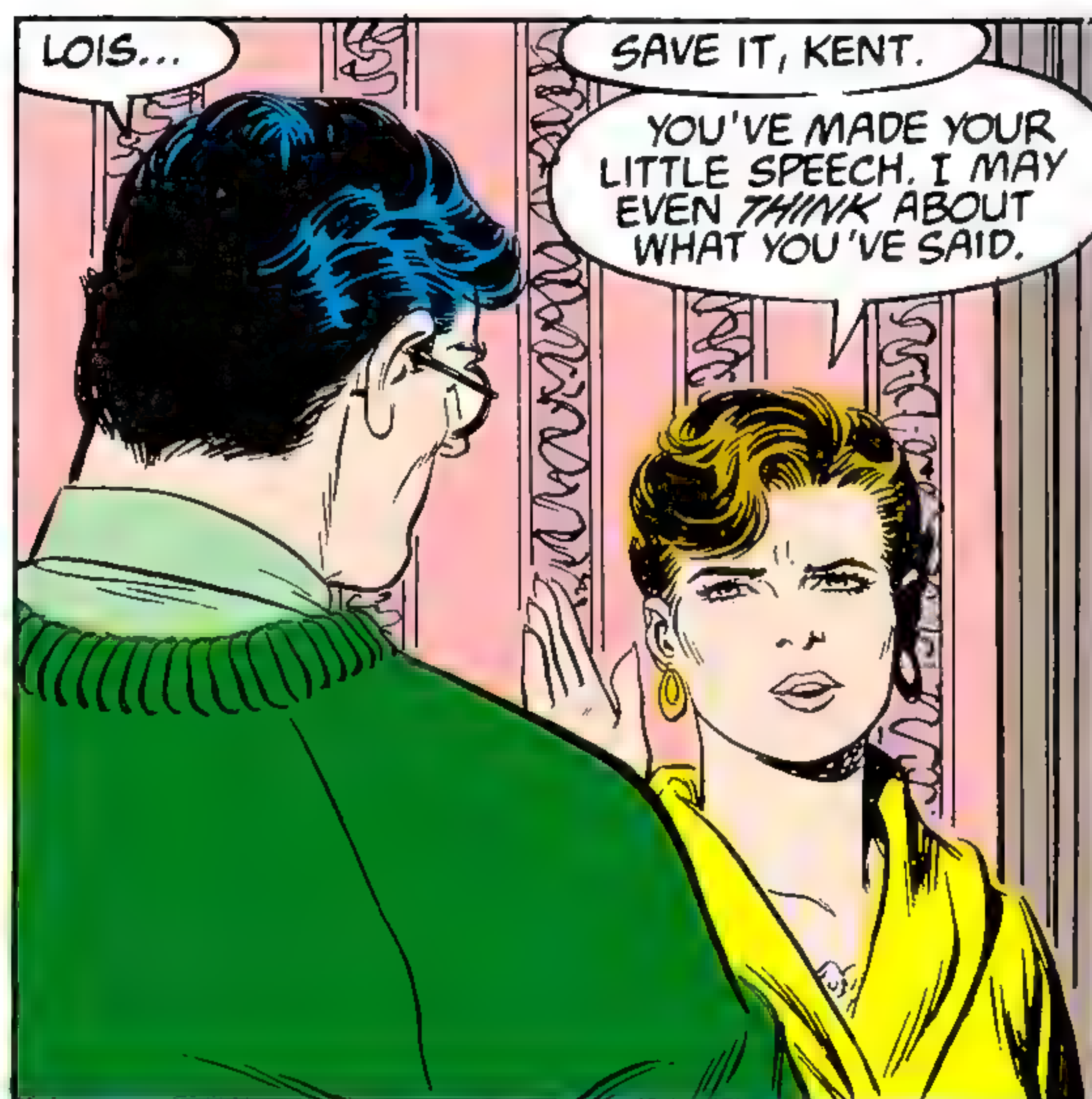
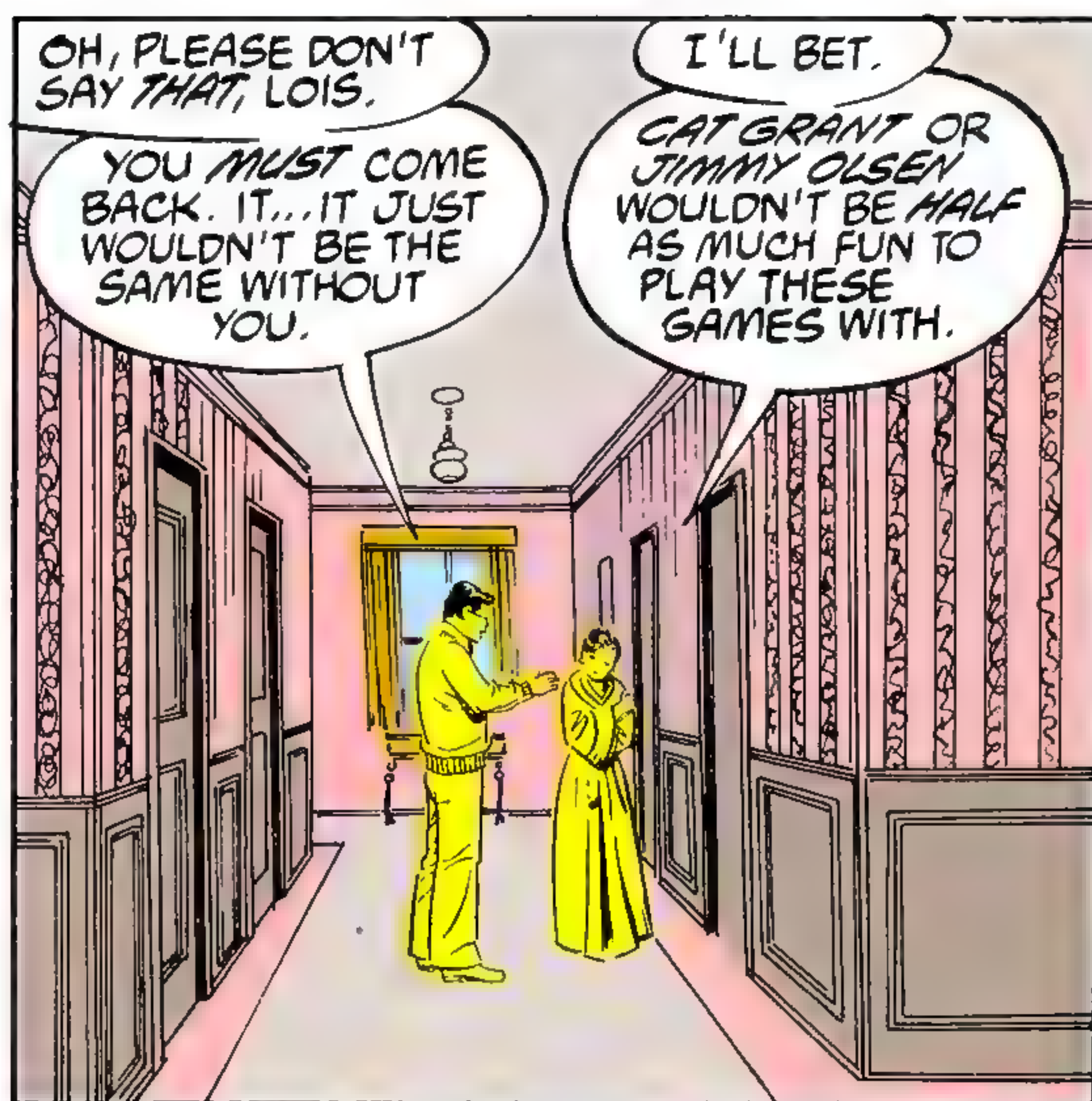
LOIS, I...

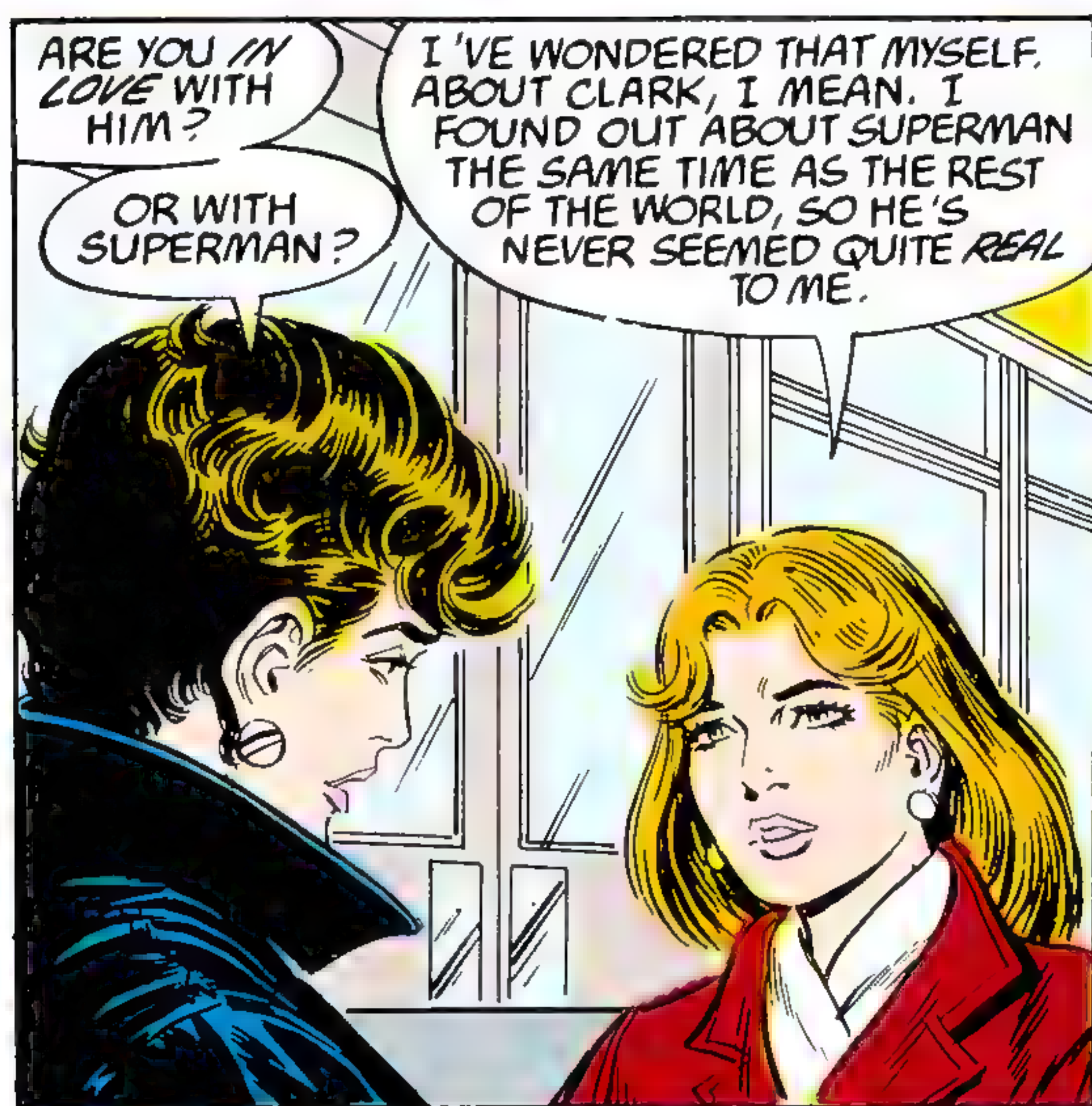
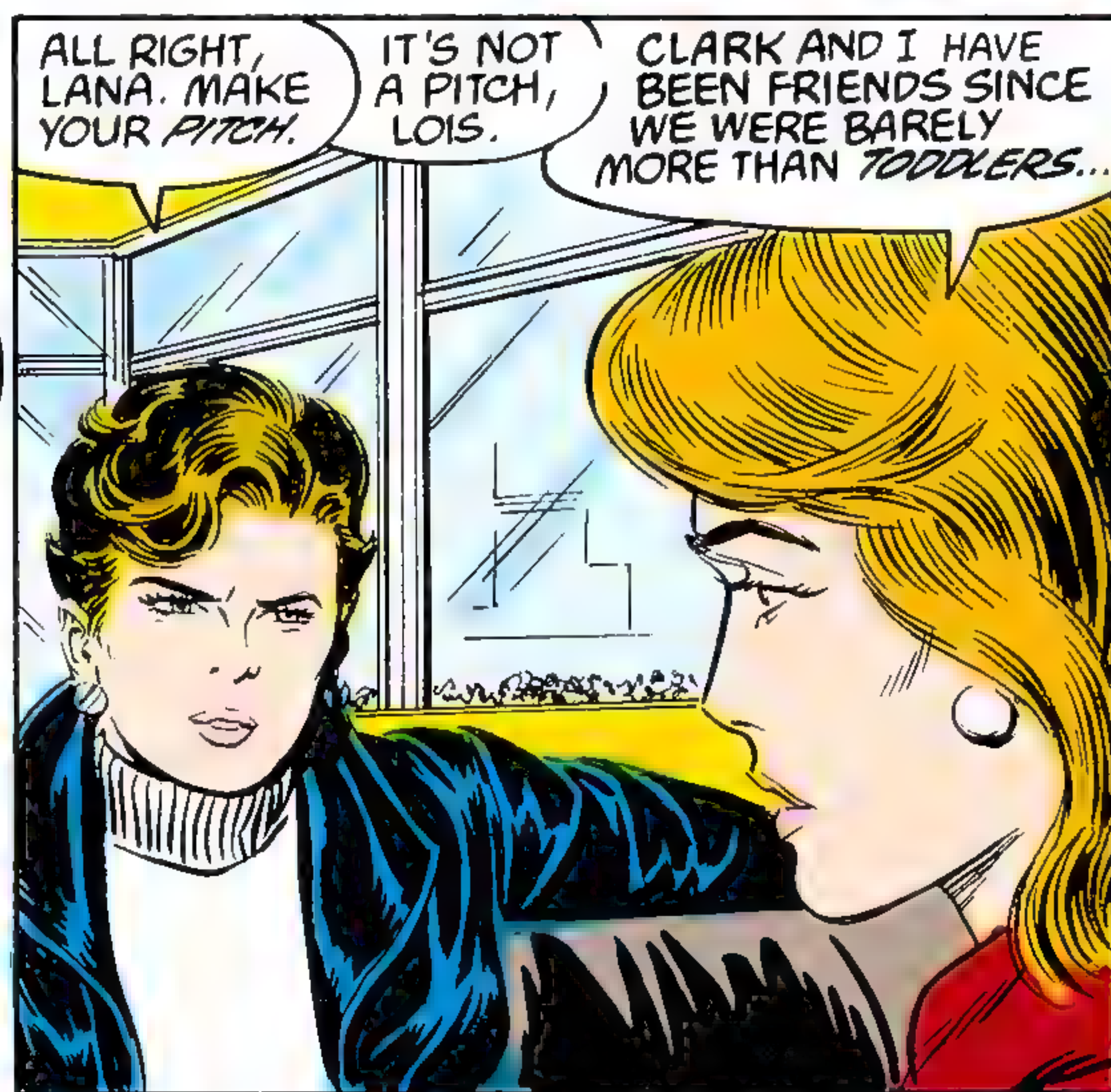
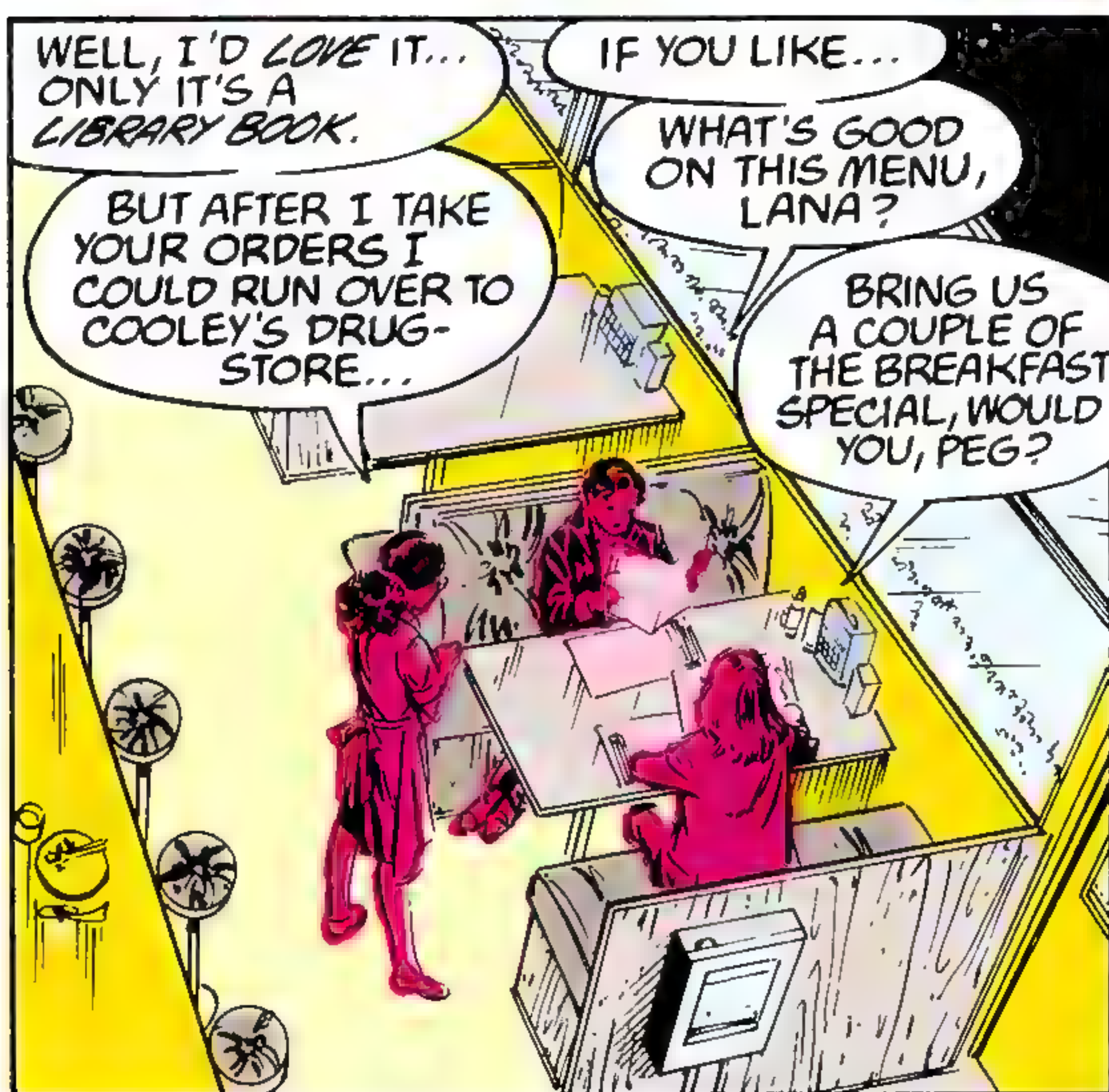
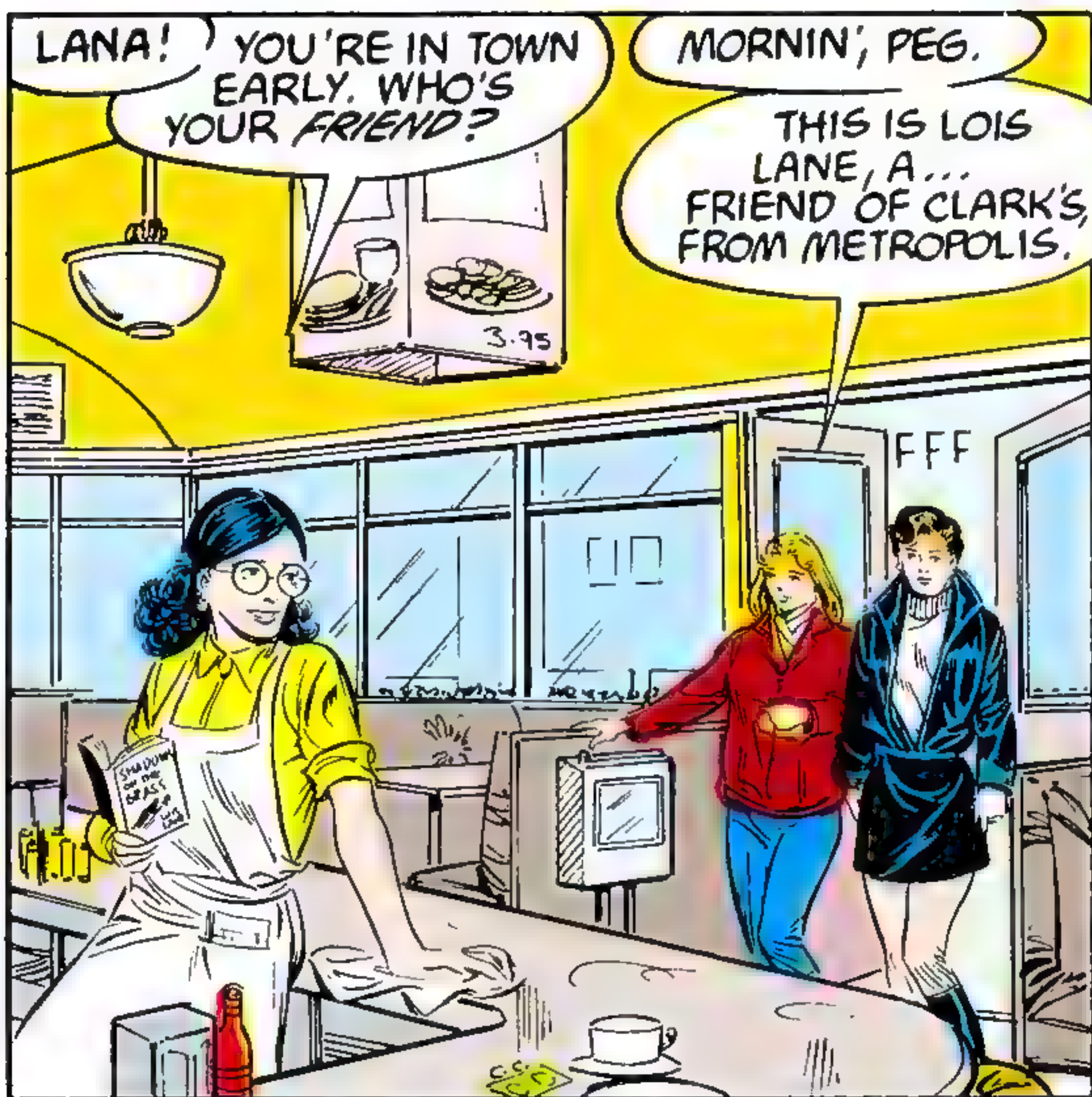
SLAM!













IN... LOVE...

LANA... I KNOW HE'S BEEN... WELL, *INTERESTED* IN ME FOR A LONG TIME, BUT...

IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING, LOIS. FOR ALL THE *SOPHIS-TICATION* CLARK MAY HAVE LEARNED IN METROPOLIS, HE'S STILL A SMALL TOWN BOY AT HEART.



HIS FOLKS ARE GOOD, SIMPLE PEOPLE. THEY SEE THE WORLD IN VERY *STRAIGHTFORWARD* TERMS.

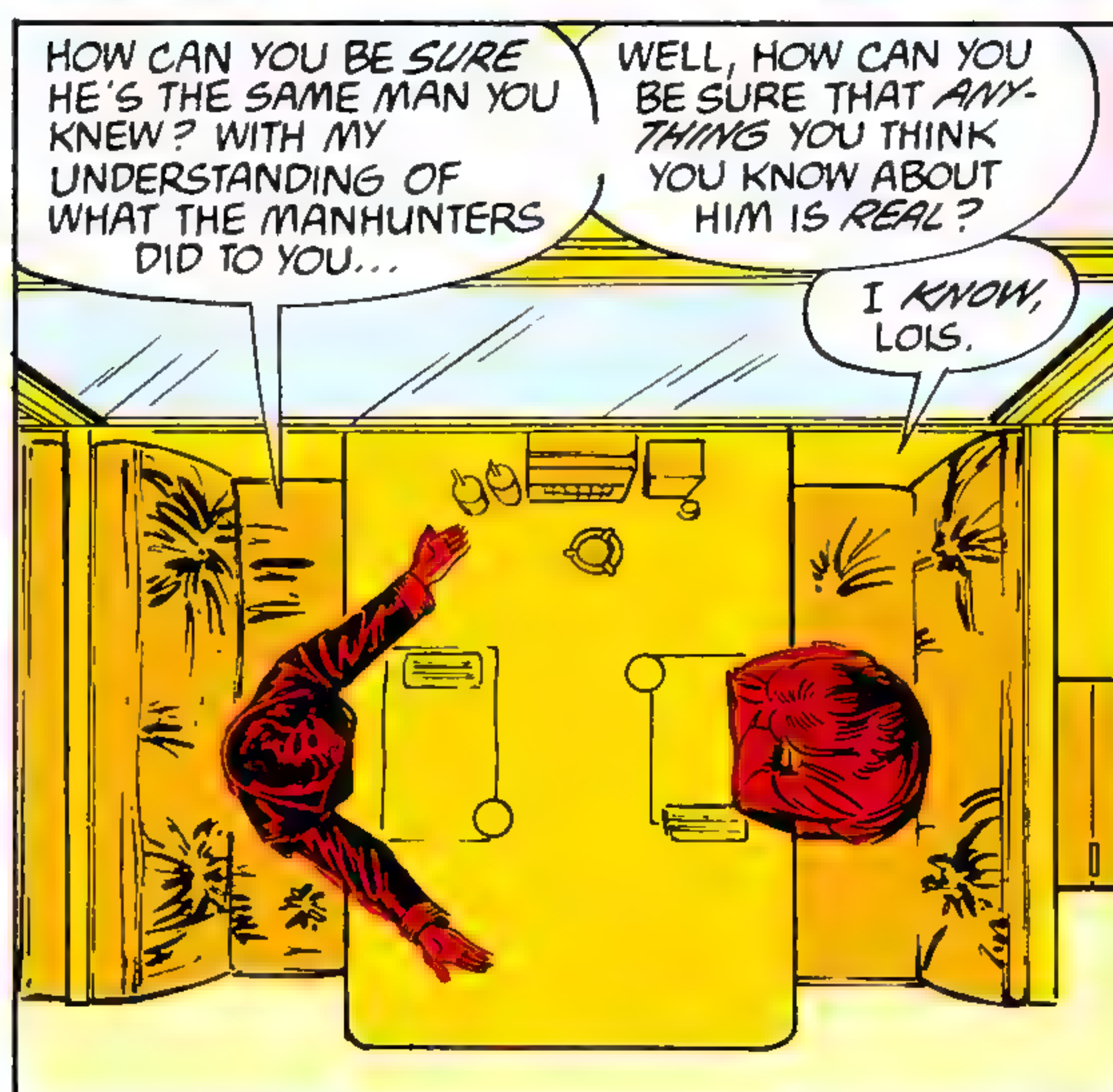
AND THEY TAUGHT THOSE STANDARDS TO CLARK. GOOD, SOLID, *MORAL* STANDARDS.



YOU'RE SAYING CLARK WOULDN'T... DECLARE HIS AFFECTION FOR ME UNLESS HE REALLY *MEANT* IT?

I DON'T KNOW, LANA. HE'S BEEN AWAY FROM SMALLVILLE FOR A LONG TIME.

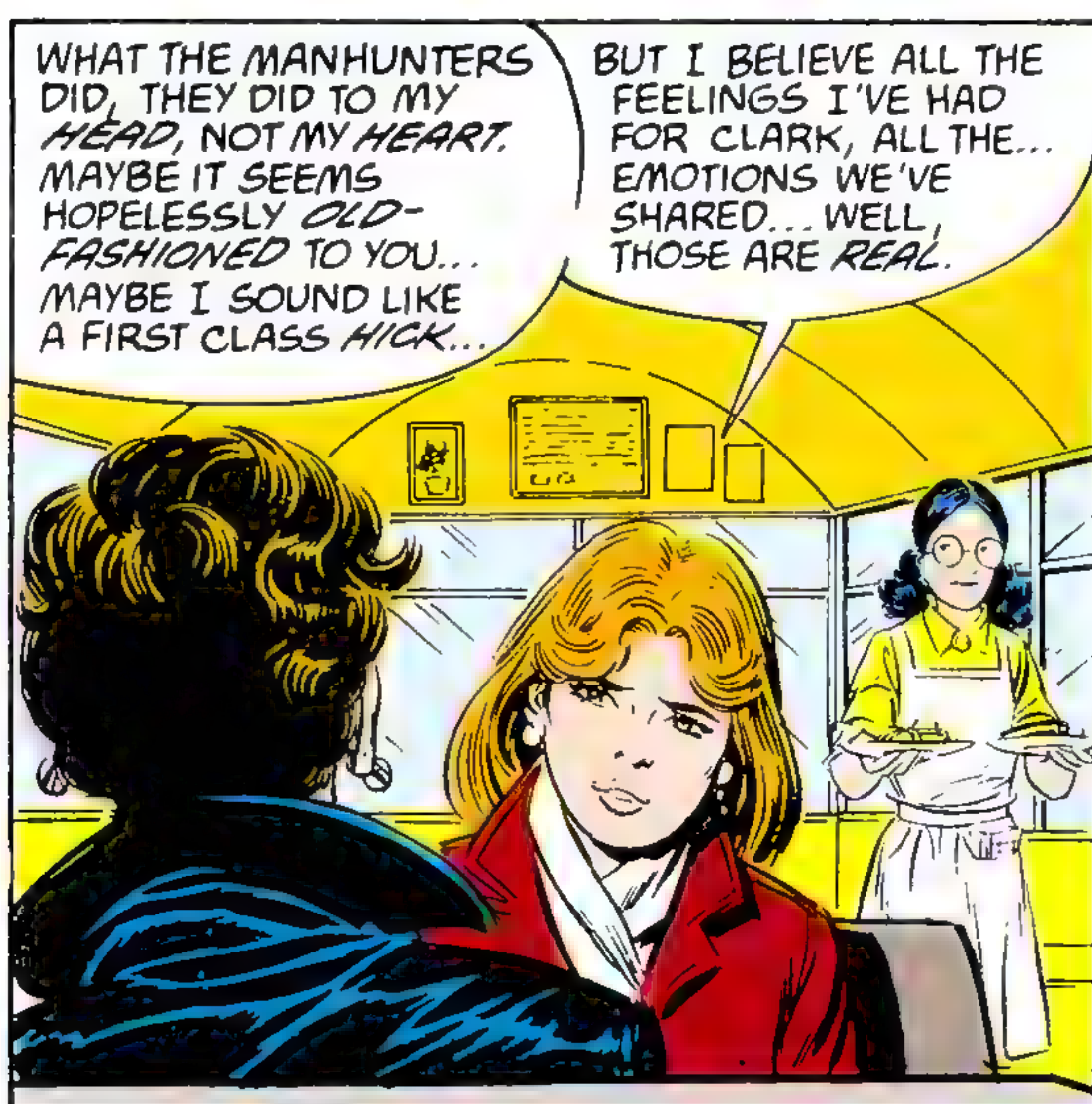
LIVING IN METROPOLIS. TRAVELLING ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR THE *PLANET*.



HOW CAN YOU BE *SURE* HE'S THE SAME MAN YOU KNEW? WITH MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE MANHUNTERS DID TO YOU...

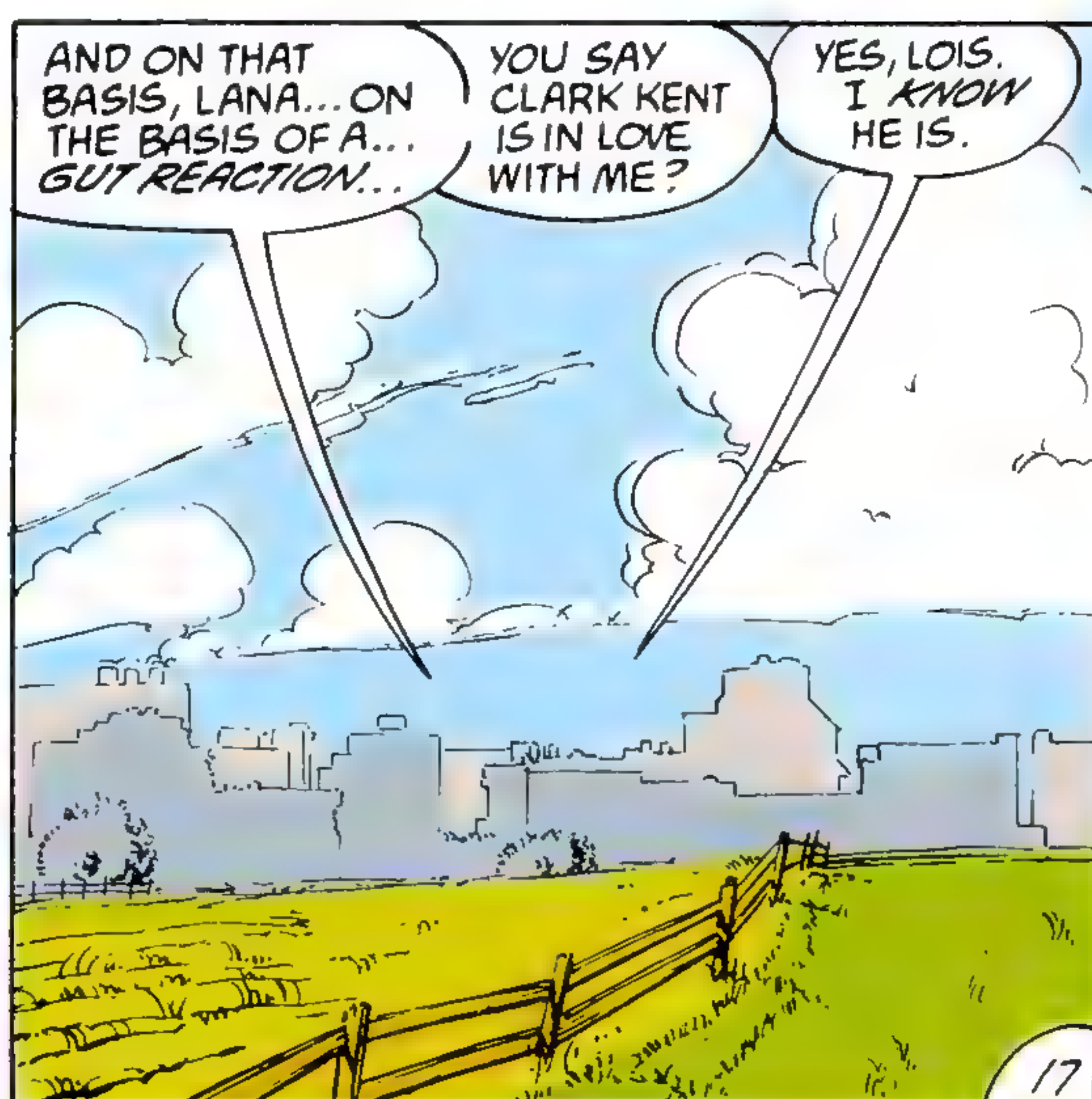
WELL, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT *ANY-THING* YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM IS *REAL*?

I *KNOW*, LOIS.



WHAT THE MANHUNTERS DID, THEY DID TO MY *HEAD*, NOT MY *HEART*. MAYBE IT SEEMS HOPELESSLY *OLD-FASHIONED* TO YOU... MAYBE I SOUND LIKE A FIRST CLASS *HICK*...

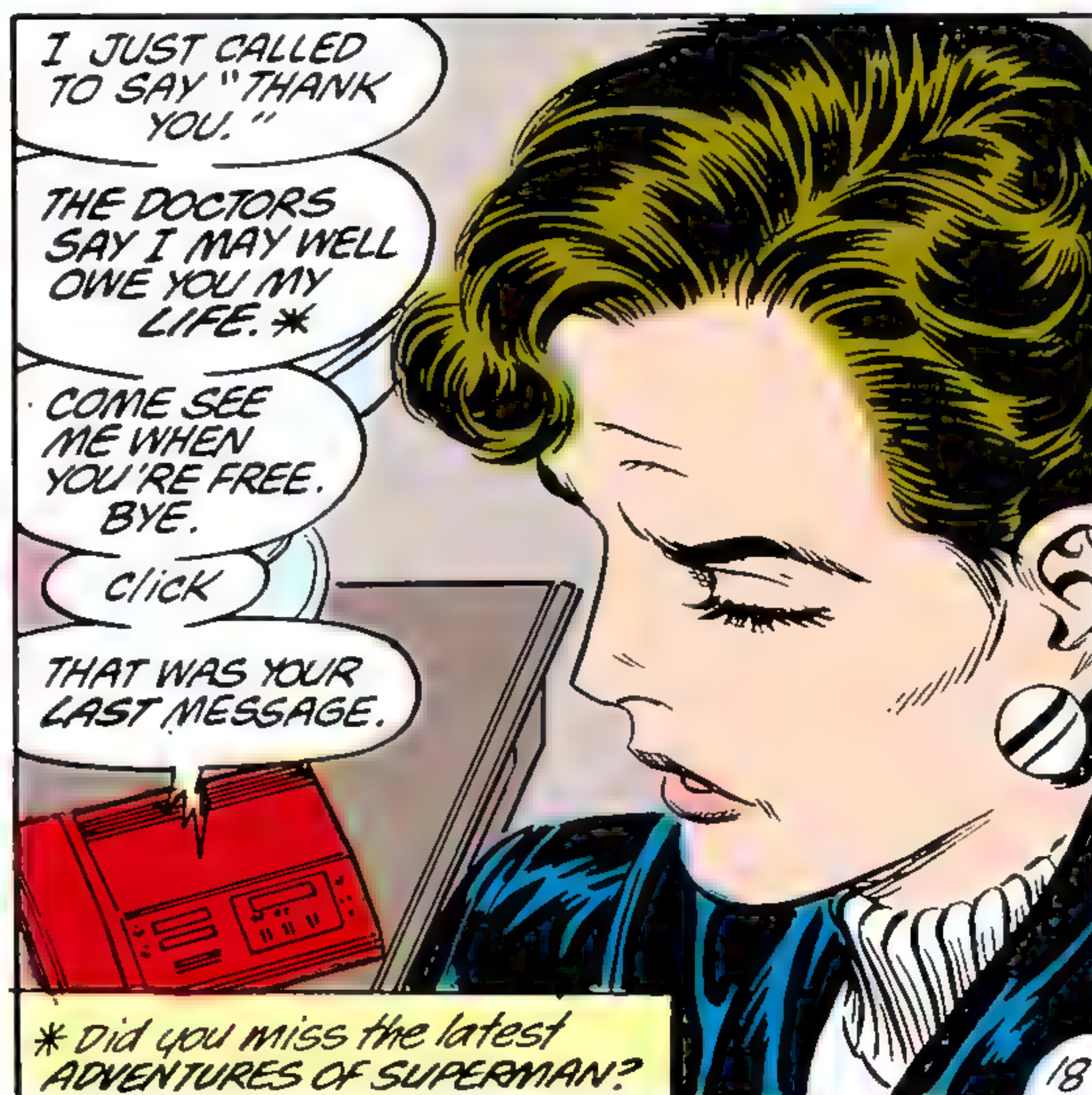
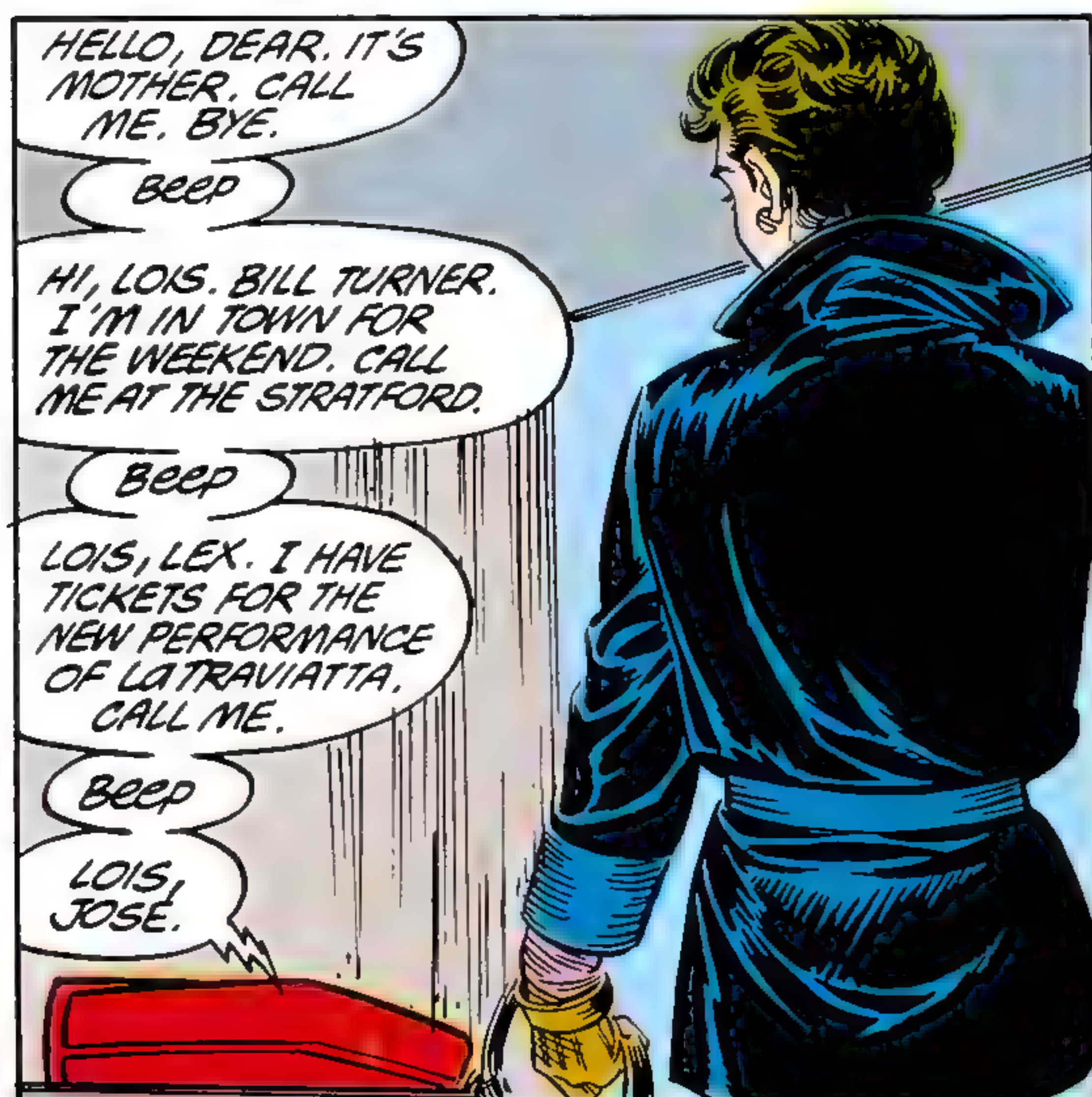
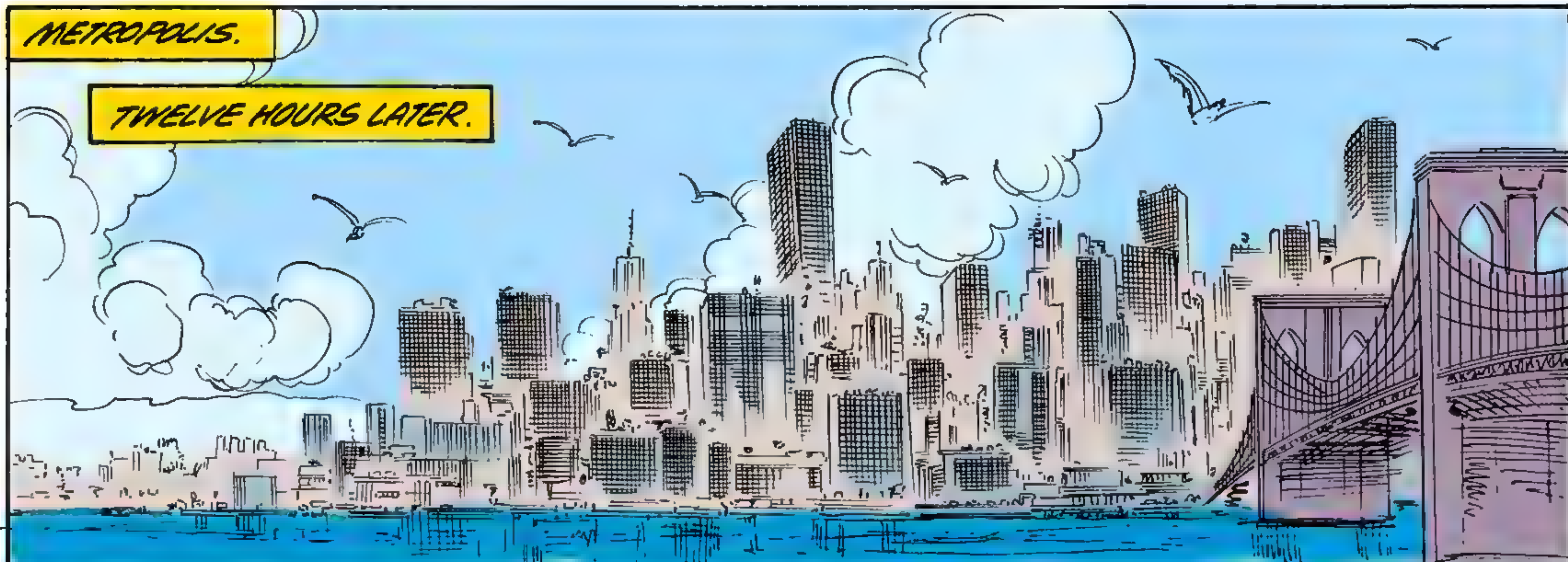
BUT I BELIEVE ALL THE FEELINGS I'VE HAD FOR CLARK, ALL THE... EMOTIONS WE'VE SHARED... WELL, THOSE ARE *REAL*.

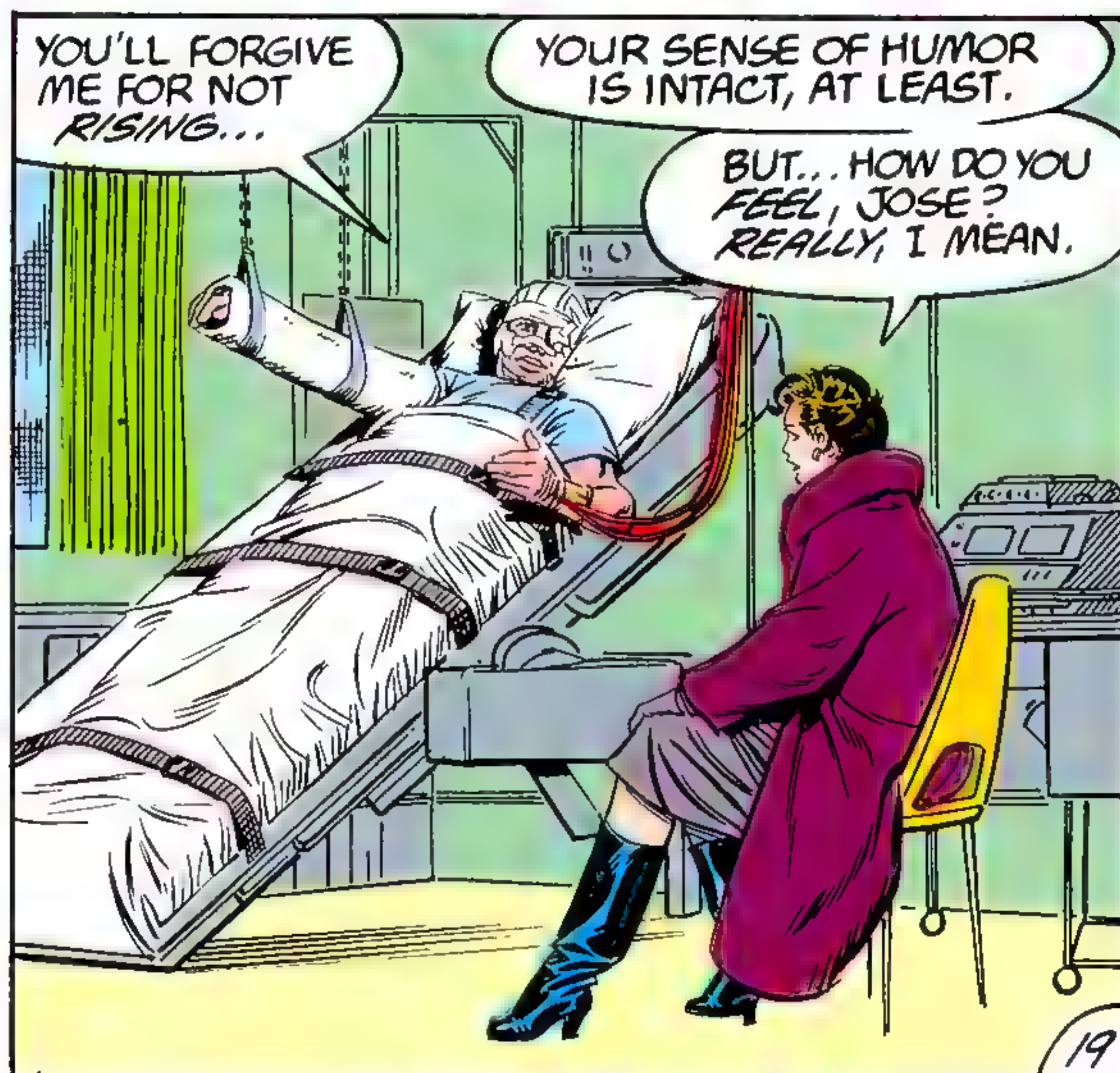
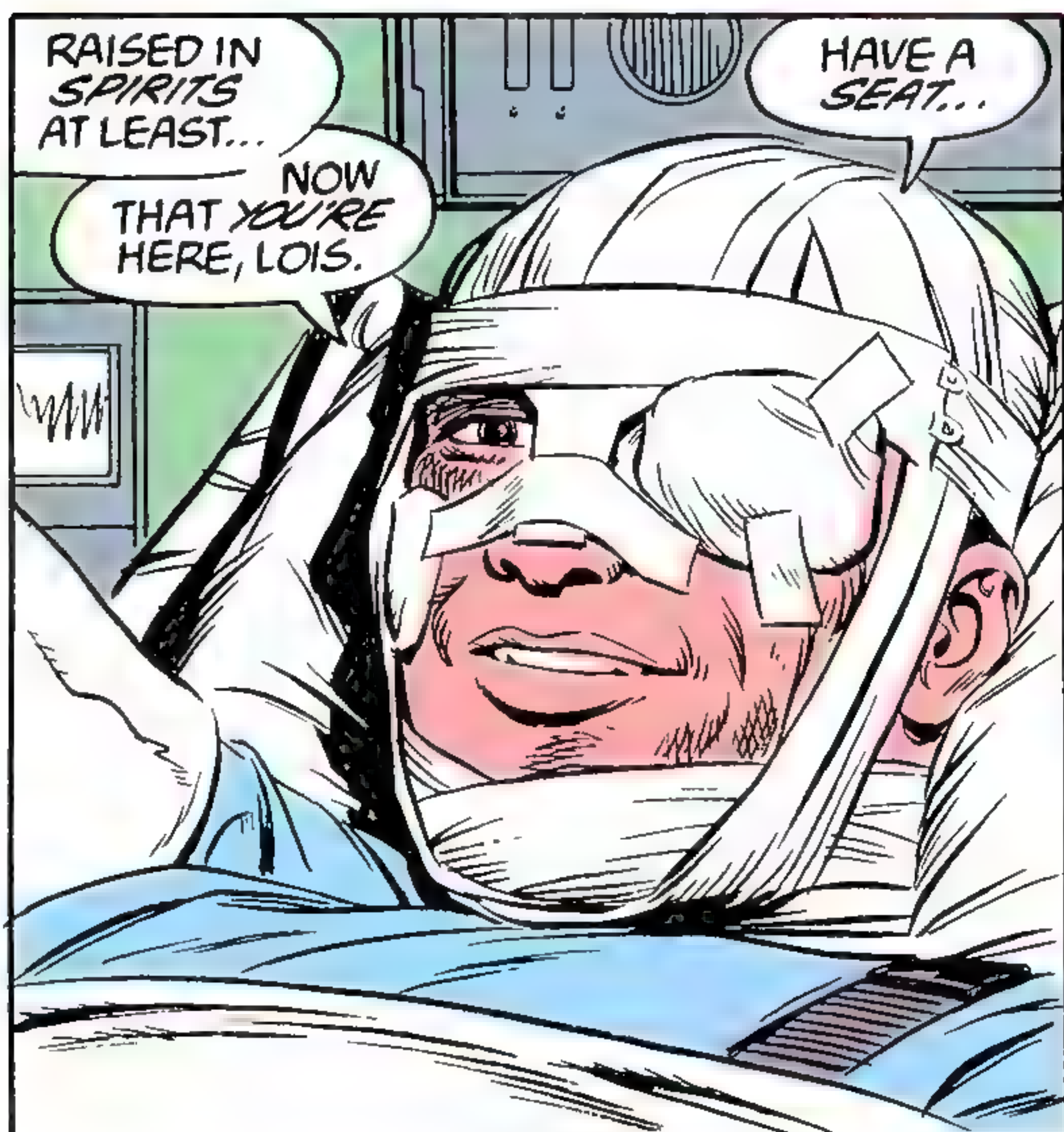
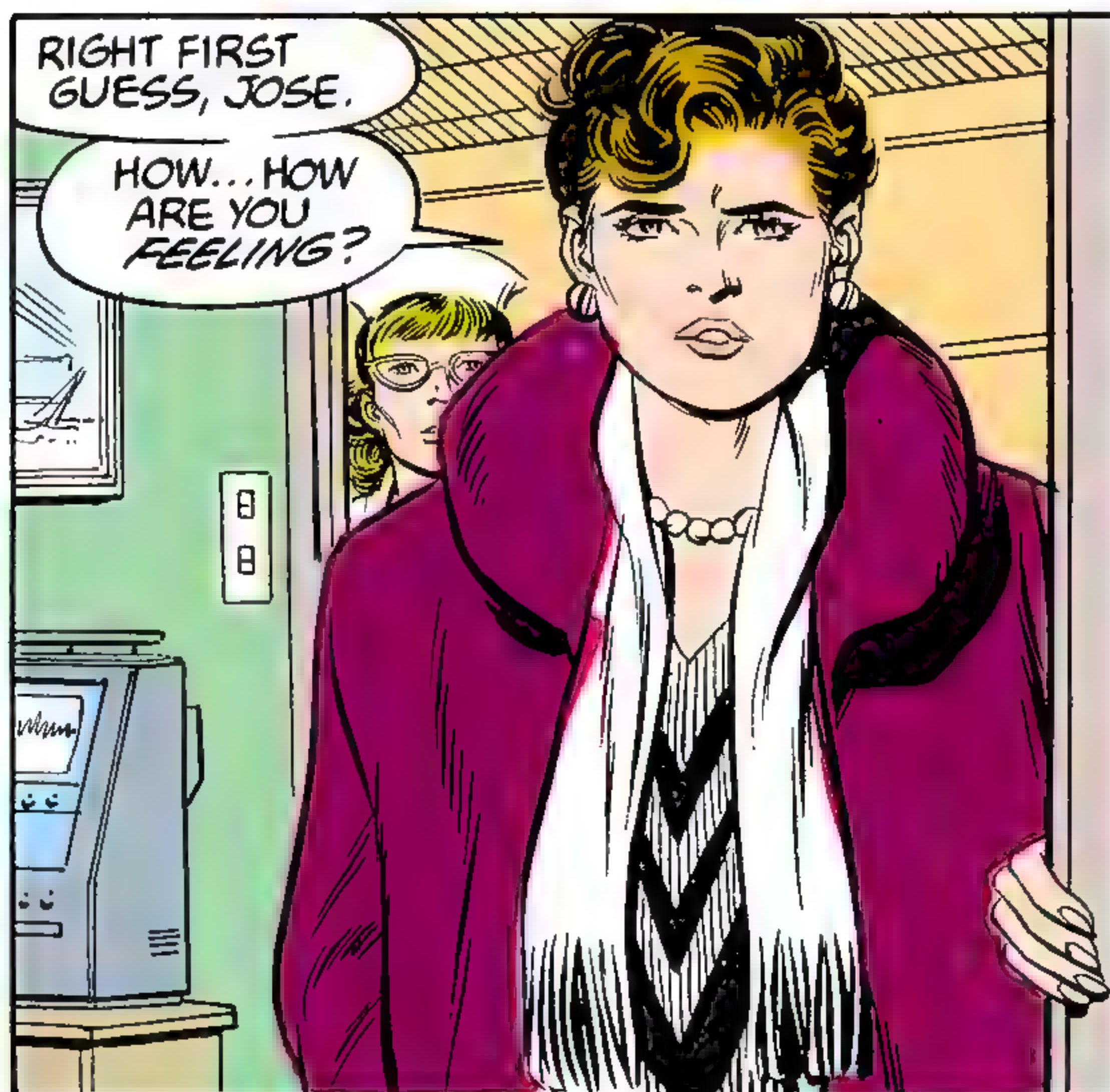
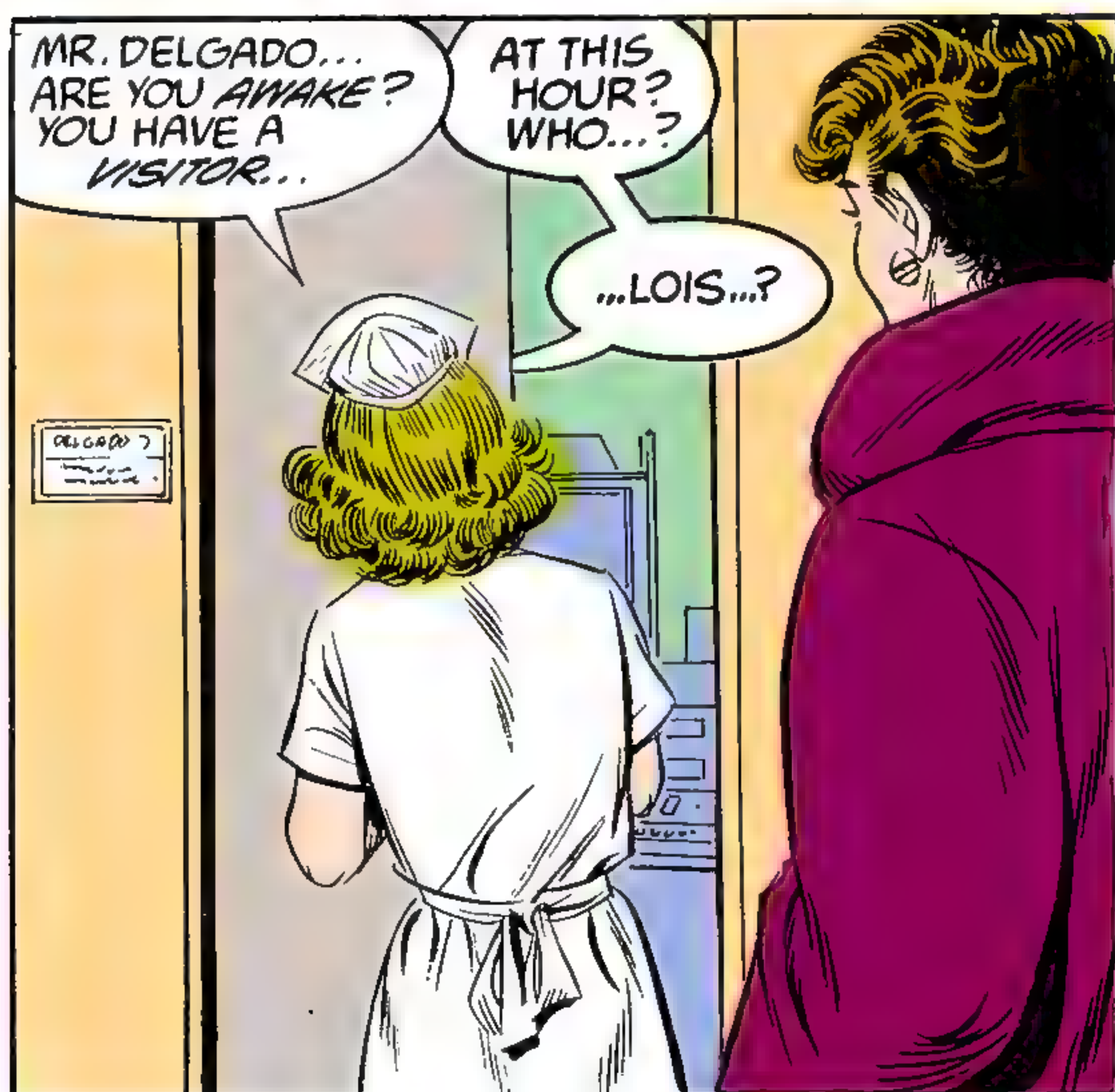
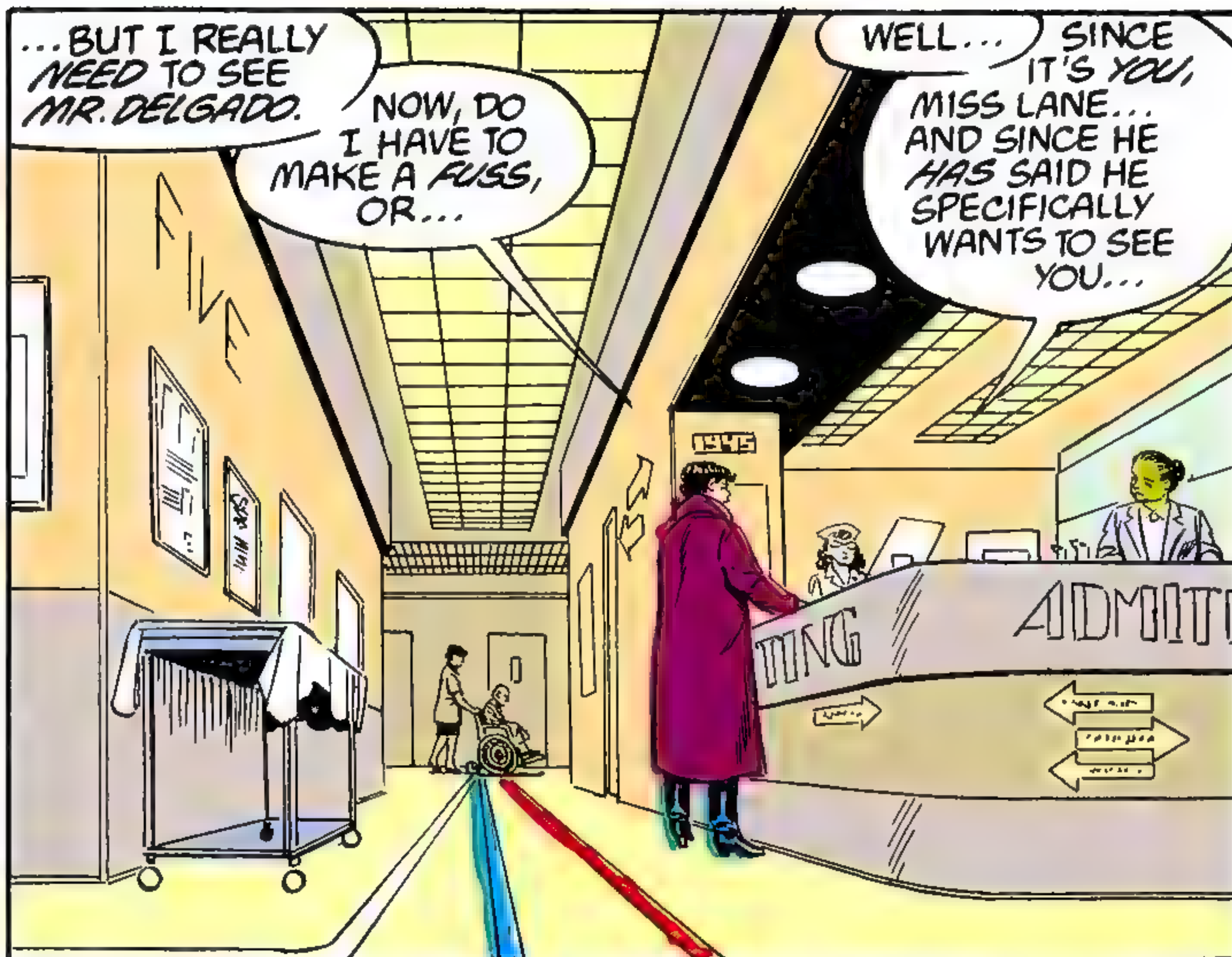


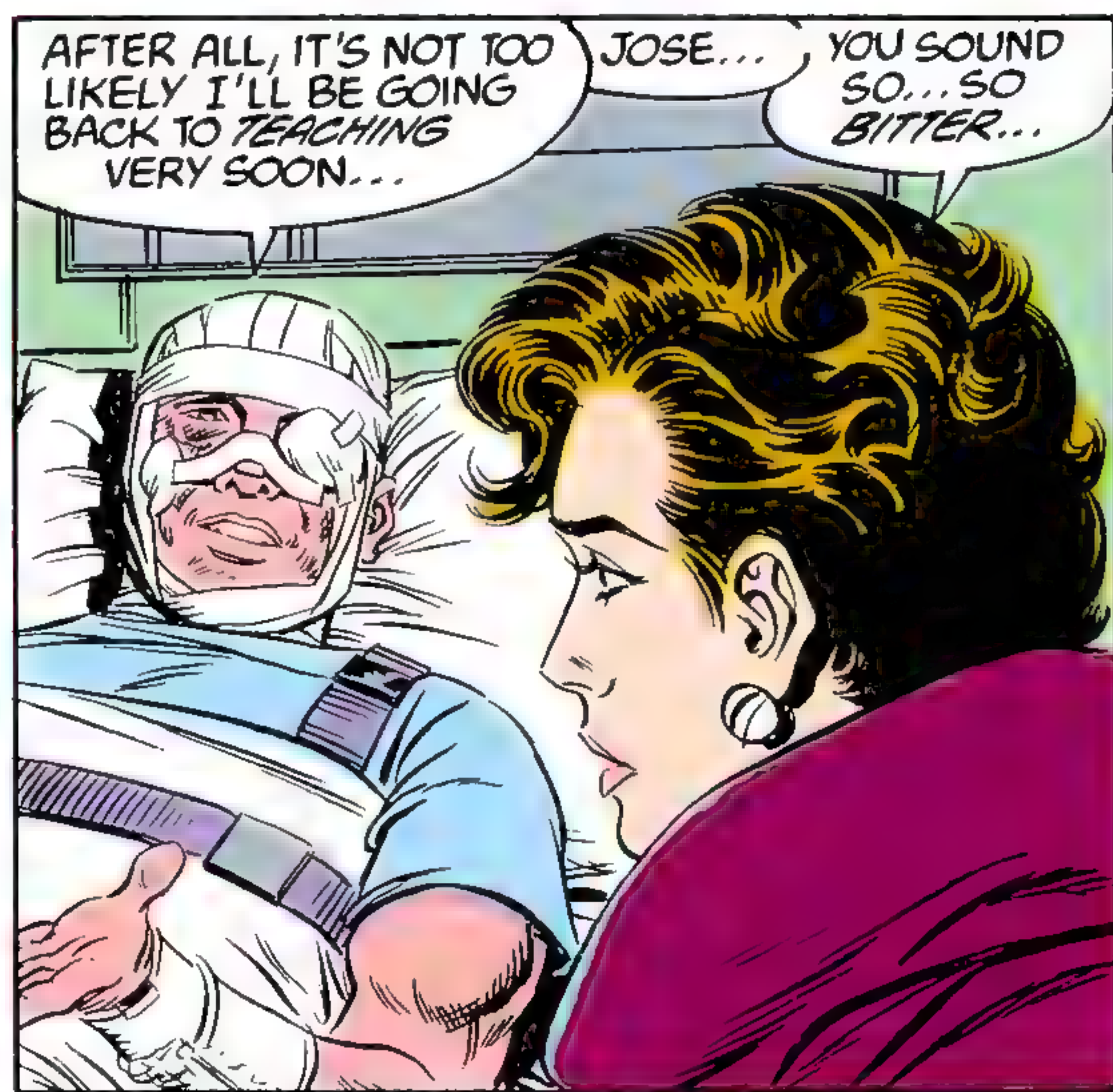
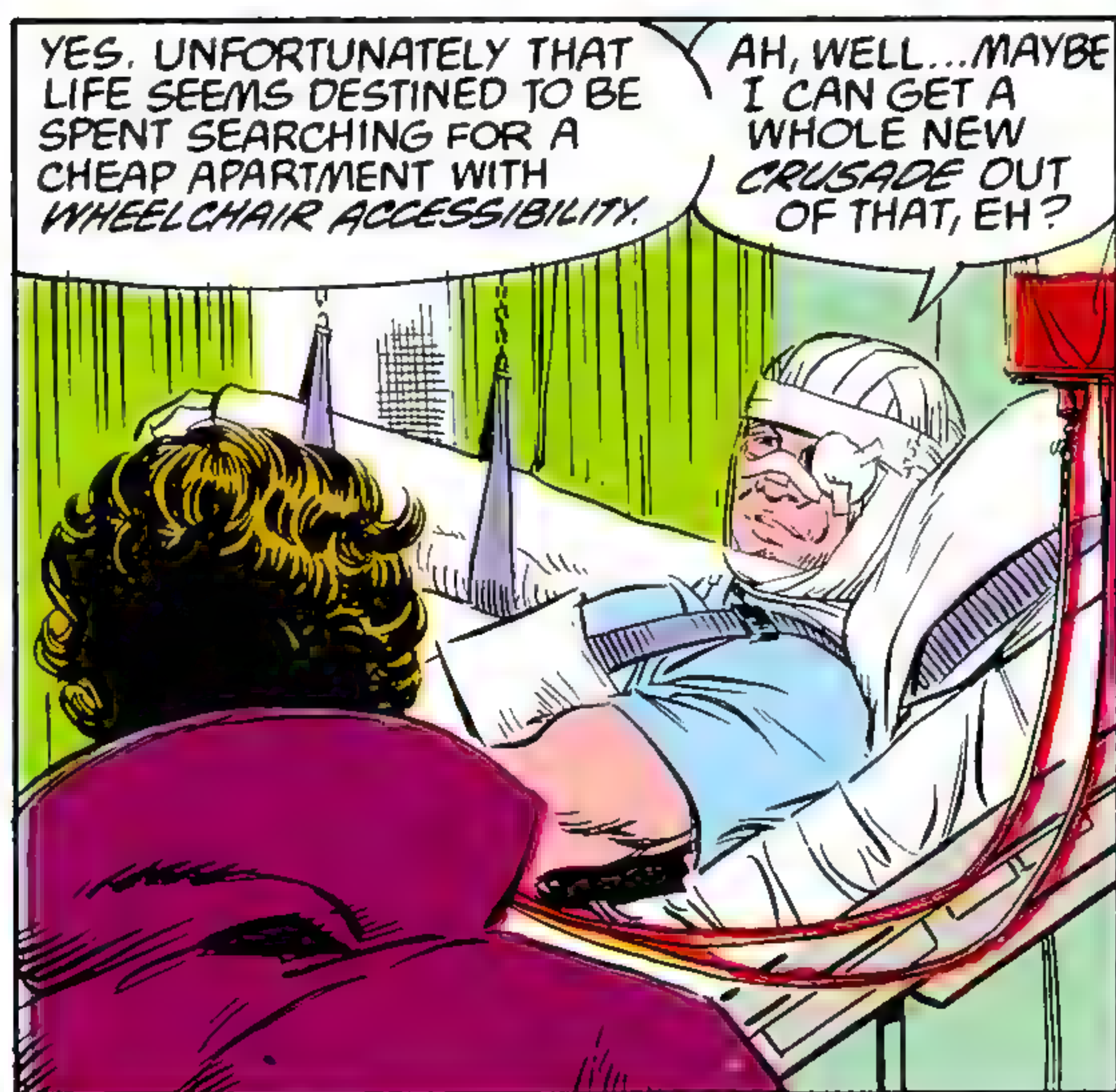
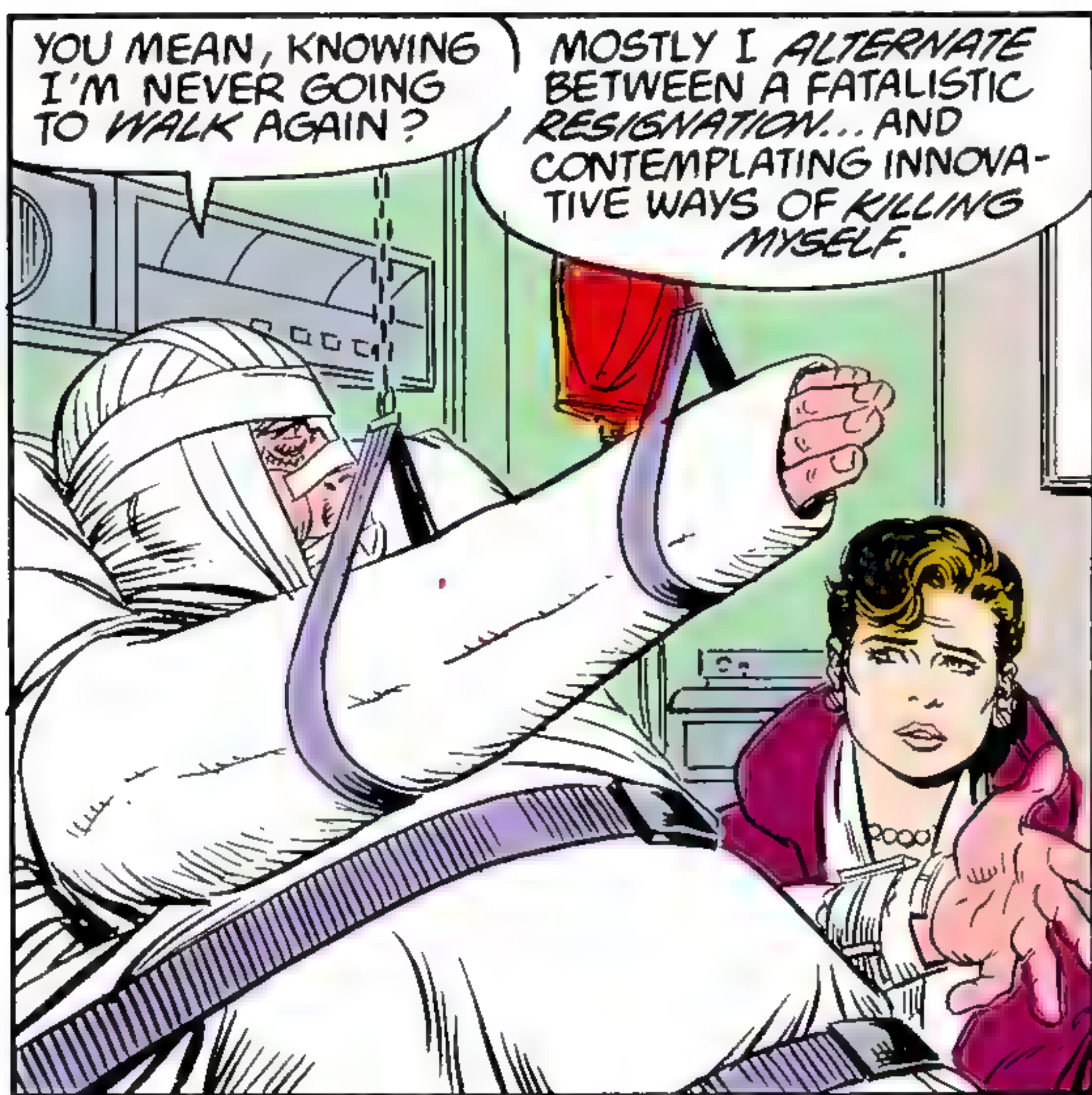
AND ON THAT BASIS, LANA... ON THE BASIS OF A... *GUT REACTION*...

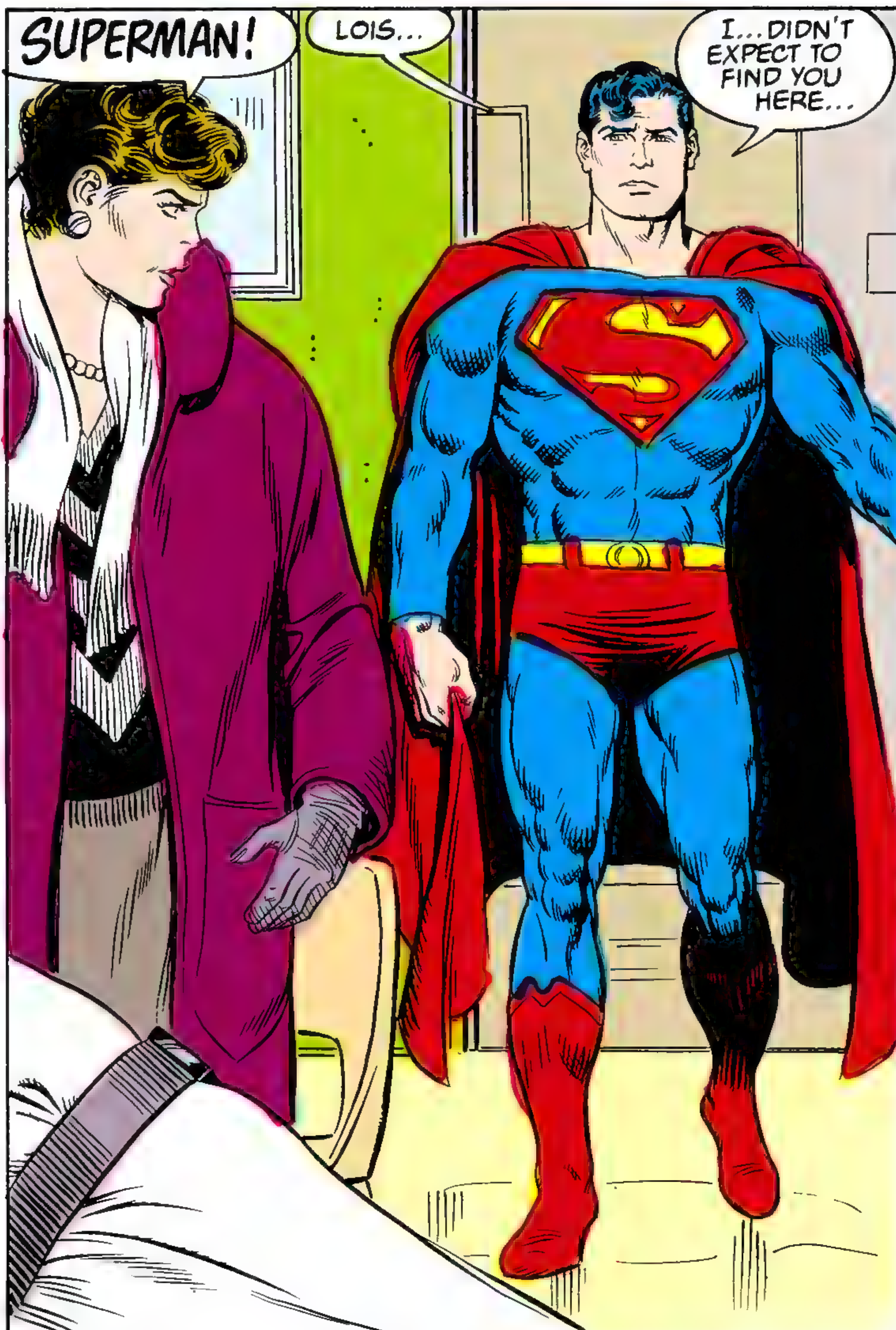
YOU SAY CLARK KENT IS IN LOVE WITH ME?

YES, LOIS. I *KNOW* HE IS.





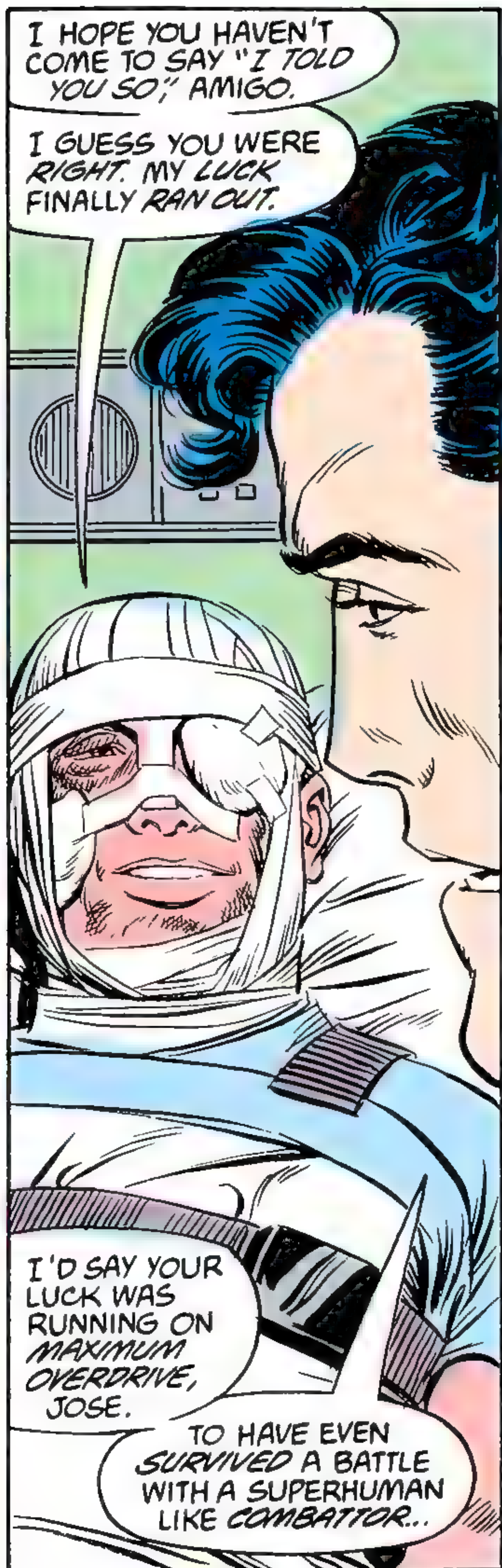




SUPERMAN!

LOIS...

I... DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE...

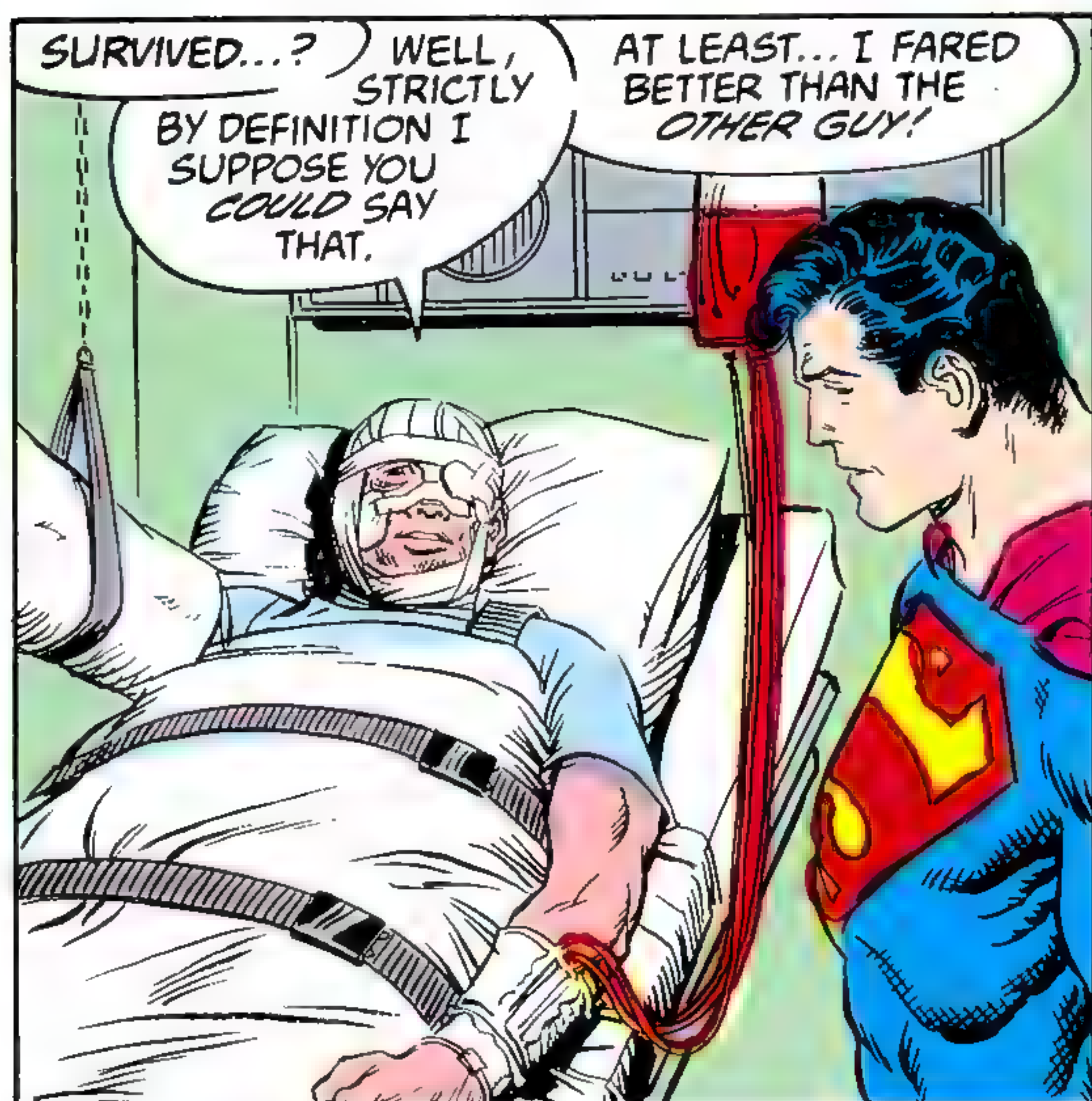


I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T COME TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO," AMIGO.

I GUESS YOU WERE RIGHT. MY LUCK FINALLY RAN OUT.

I'D SAY YOUR LUCK WAS RUNNING ON MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE, JOSE.

TO HAVE EVEN SURVIVED A BATTLE WITH A SUPERHUMAN LIKE COMBATTOR...



SURVIVED...?

WELL, STRICTLY BY DEFINITION I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT.

AT LEAST... I FARED BETTER THAN THE OTHER GUY!



WHAT'S THE LATEST ON OUR LATE FRIEND, SUPERMAN?

VERY LITTLE, LOIS. COMBATTOR WASN'T CARRYING ANY I.D., OF COURSE...

AND THE AUTOPSY REVEALED ONLY THAT HE WAS PUMPED FULL OF SOME MYSTERY CHEMICAL...



BY MYSTERY I
TAKE IT YOU MEAN
UNKNOWN...

...AND
UNTRACEABLE.

BY... CONVENTIONAL
METHODS, ANYWAY.
BUT I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN CERTAIN STEPS...

THERE IS A SINGLE
MIND... A SINGLE
INSTIGATOR
BEHIND ALL THIS...

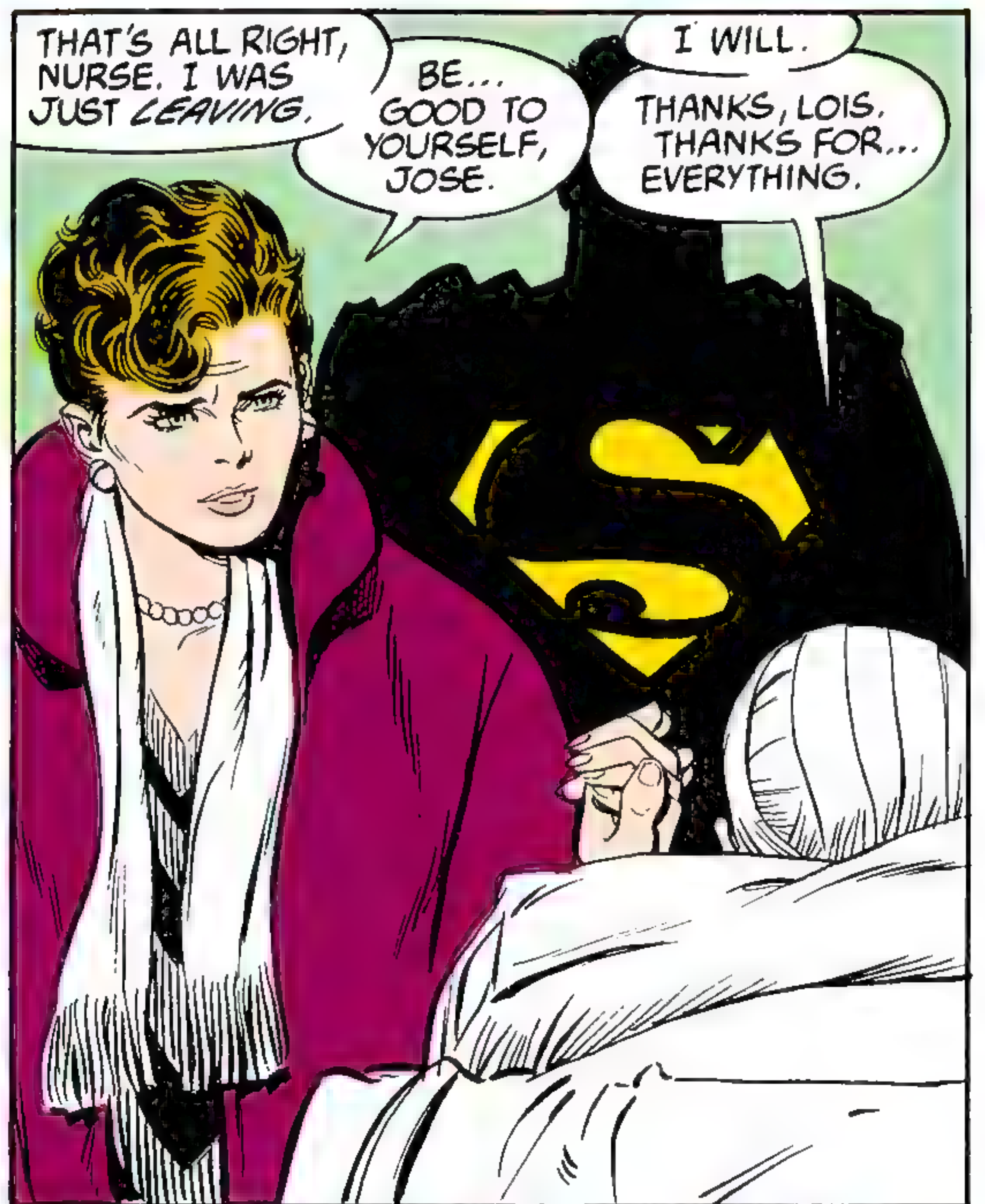


AND HE KNOWS HIS
DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

ER...

OH,
SUPERMAN! I
DIDN'T KNOW YOU
WERE HERE, TOO.

I'M... SORRY,
BUT I'M AFRAID
YOU'LL REALLY
BOTH HAVE TO
GO NOW.

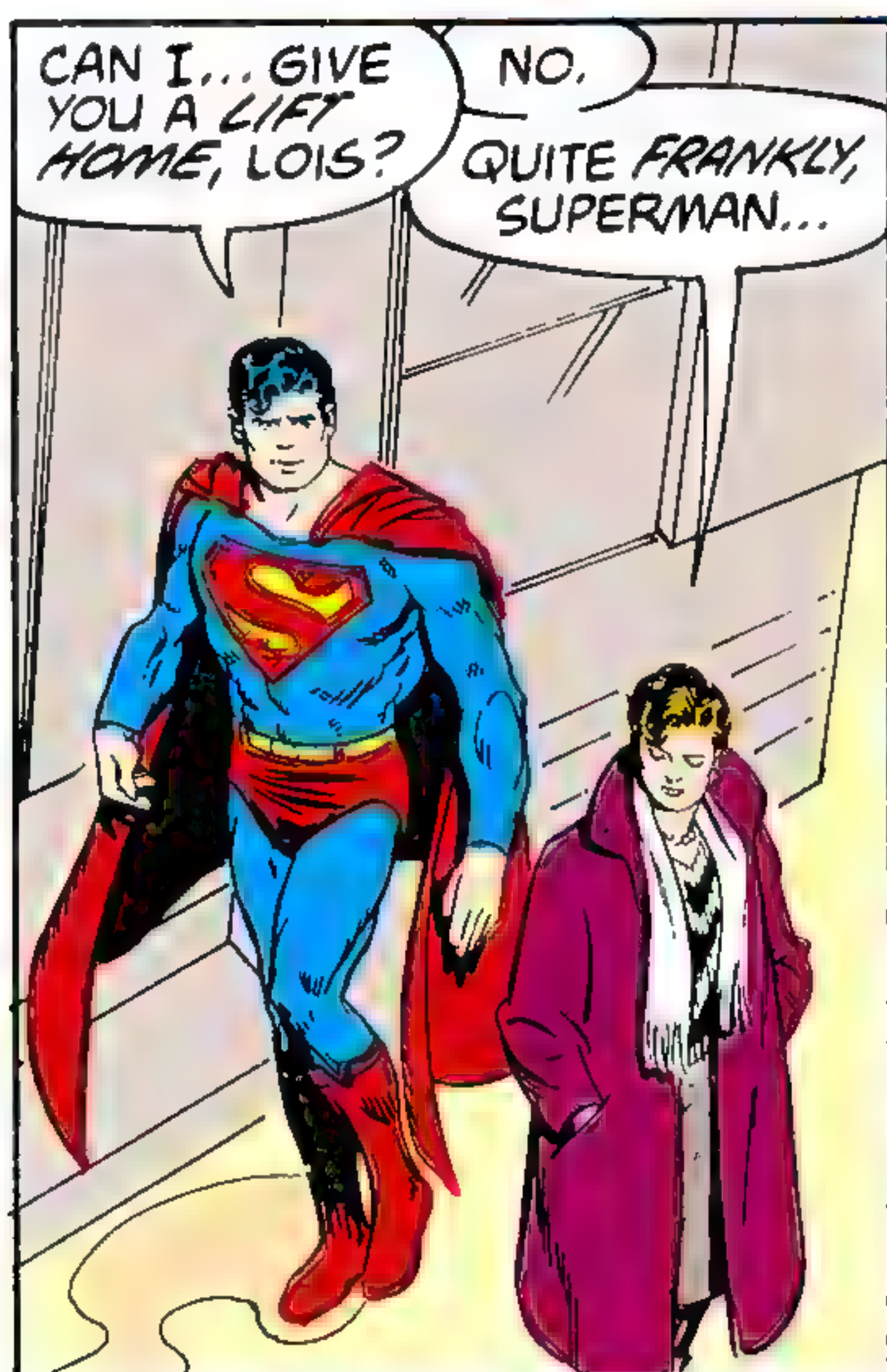


THAT'S ALL RIGHT,
NURSE. I WAS
JUST LEAVING.

BE...
GOOD TO
YOURSELF,
JOSE.

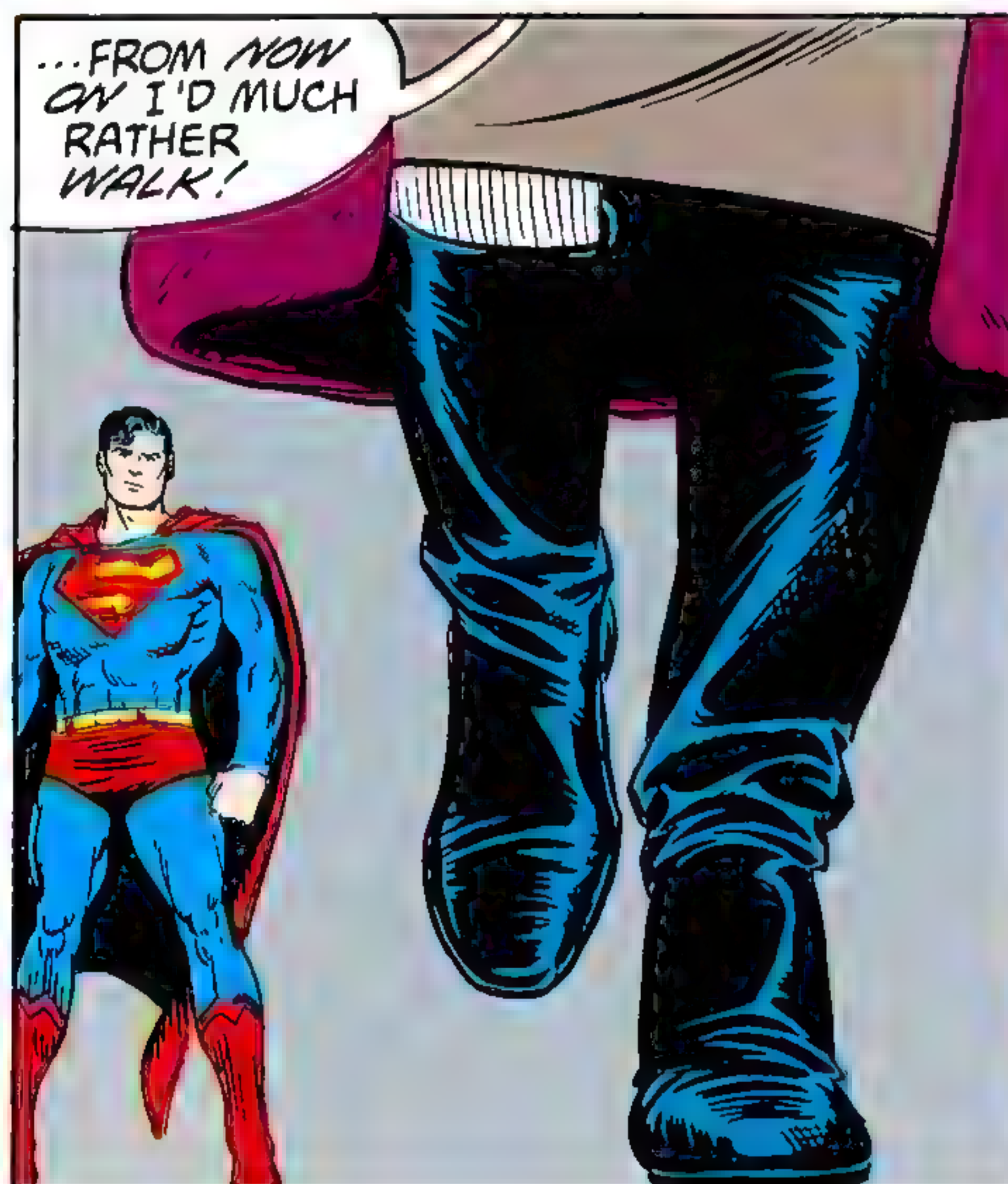
I WILL.

THANKS, LOIS.
THANKS FOR...
EVERYTHING.



CAN I... GIVE
YOU A LIFT
HOME, LOIS?

NO.
QUITE FRANKLY,
SUPERMAN...



...FROM NOW
ON I'D MUCH
RATHER
WALK!

NEXT ISSUE:
VIGILANTE
IS DEAD...
BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN...
Introducing
Checkmate!
in
ACTION
COMICS
#598 in 30
DAYS

THE · WORLD · OF SMALLVILLE™

FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

SECRETS

SMALLVILLE...

OF ALL THE
PLACES IN THE
WORLD THAT I'VE
LIVED... ALL THE
WONDERS I'VE
SEEN...

THIS
IS THE PLACE
I LOVE MOST
OF ALL!

WRITER:
JOHN BYRNE
PENCILLER:
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INKER:
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LETTERER:
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COLORIST:
PETRA SCOTSE
EDITOR:
MIKE CARLIN

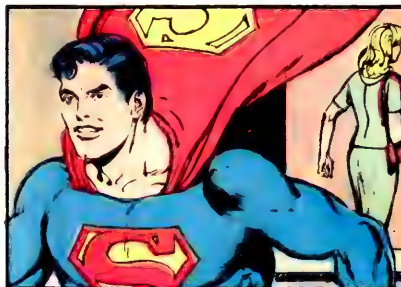
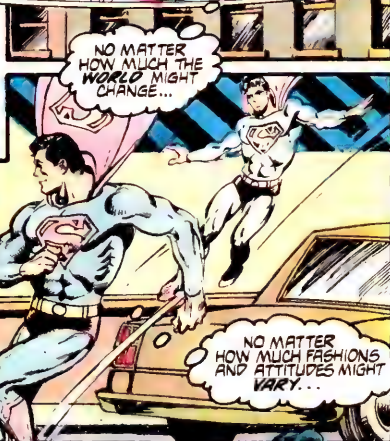
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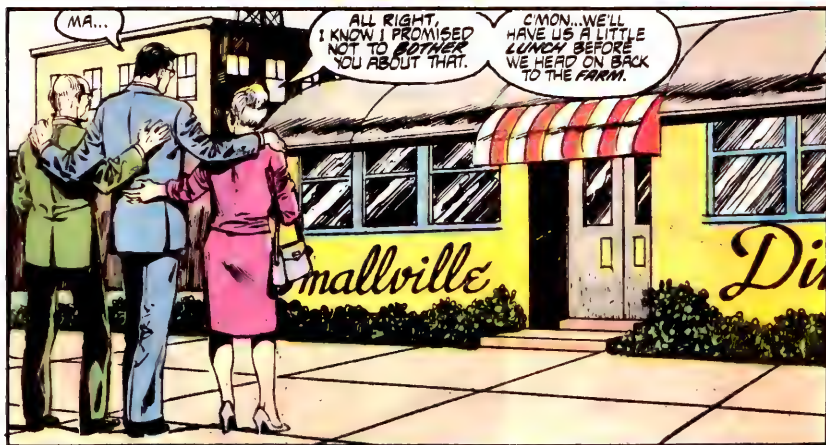
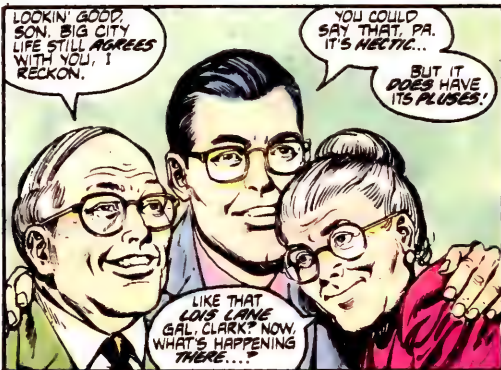
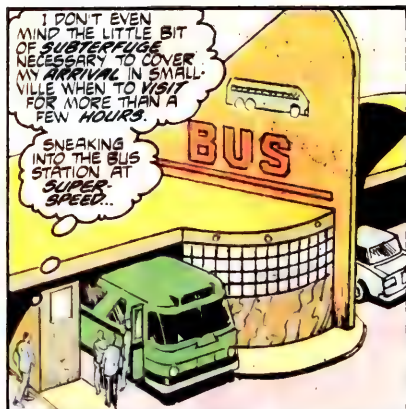
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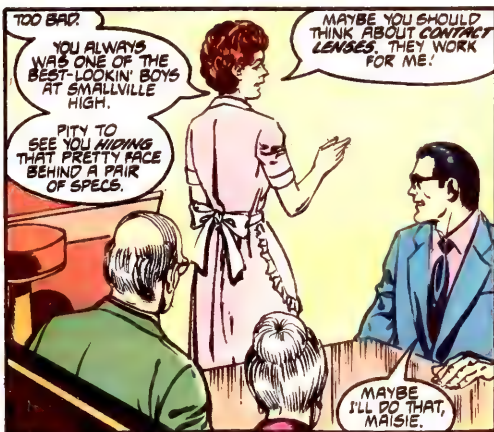
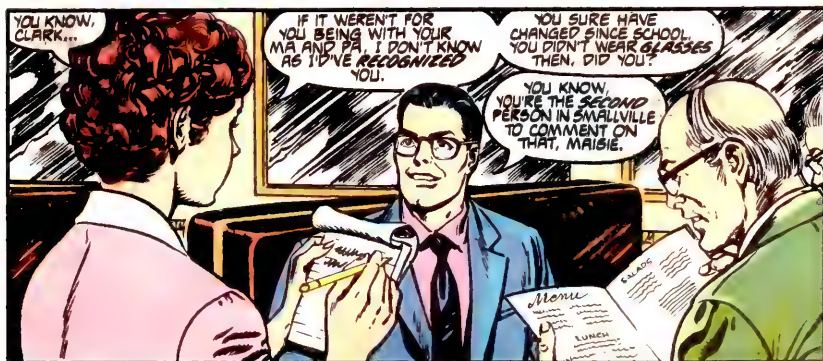
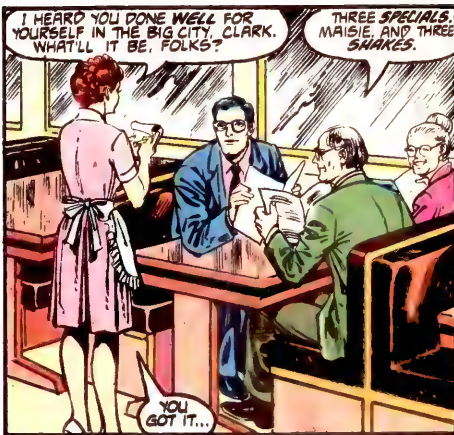
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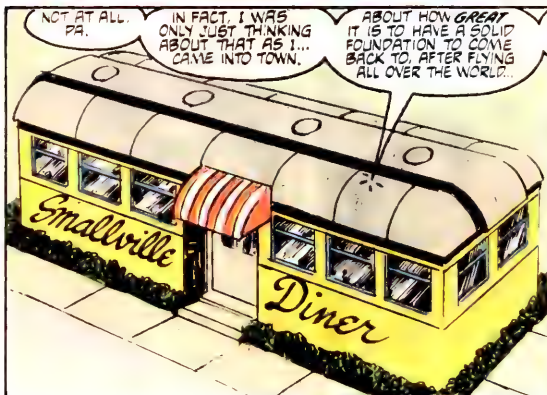
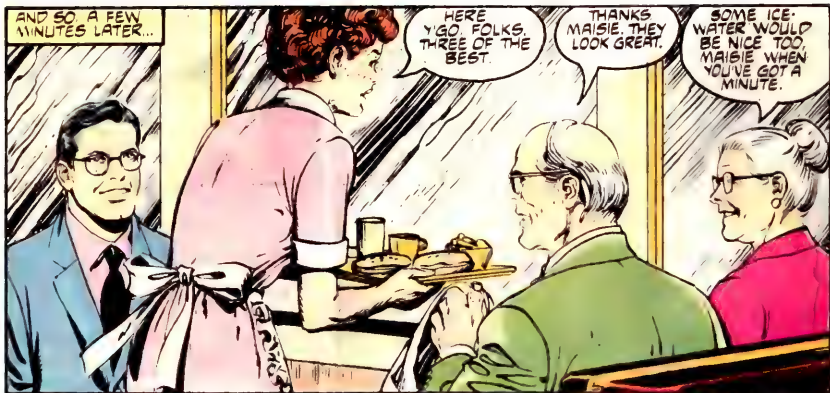
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Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President

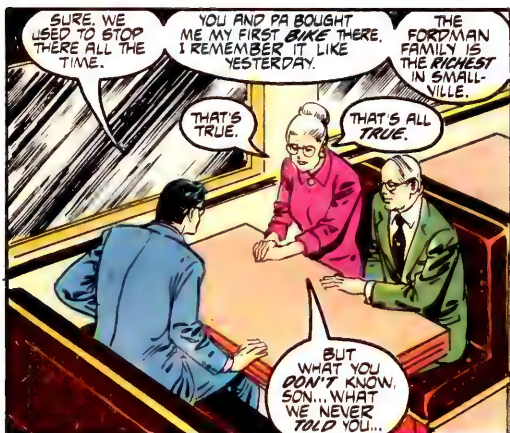
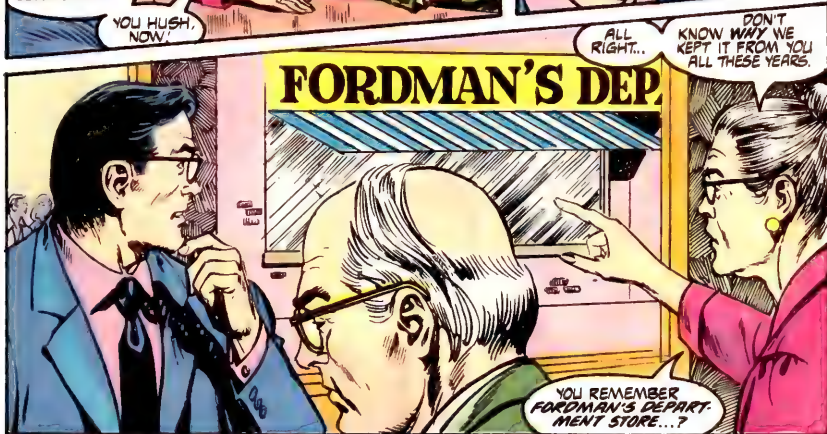
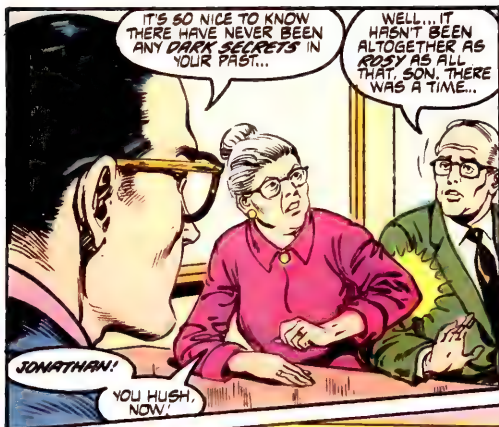
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Patrick Cadden, Controller

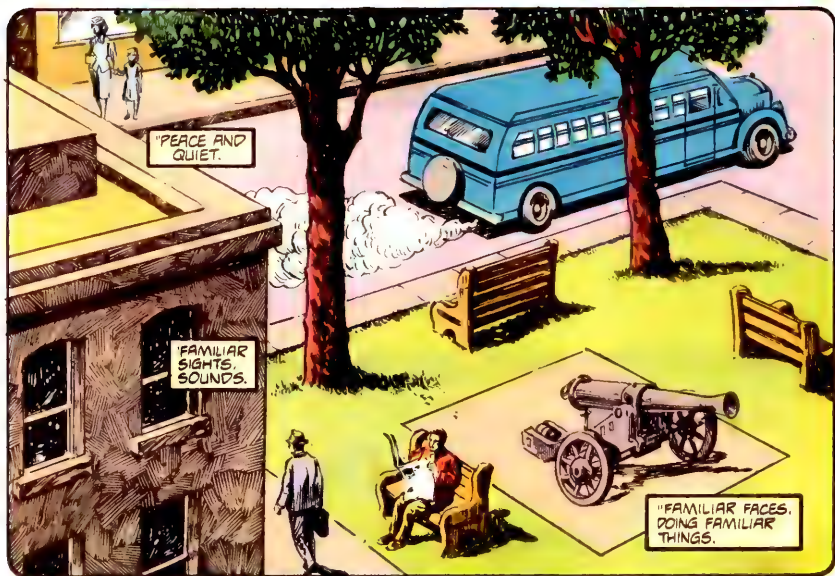
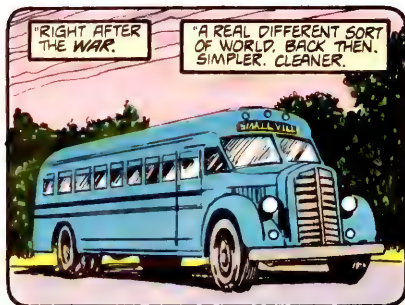
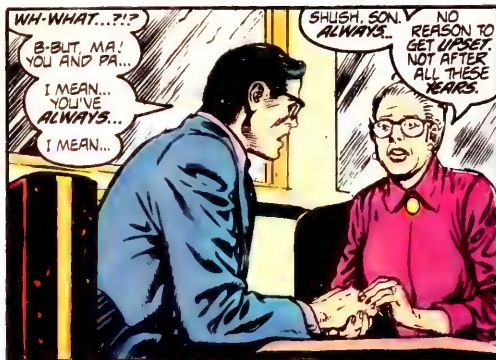


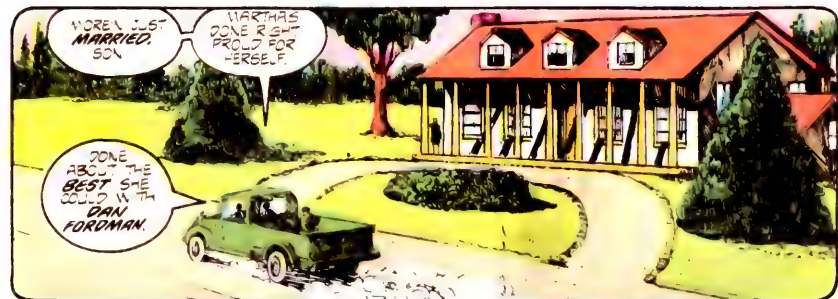
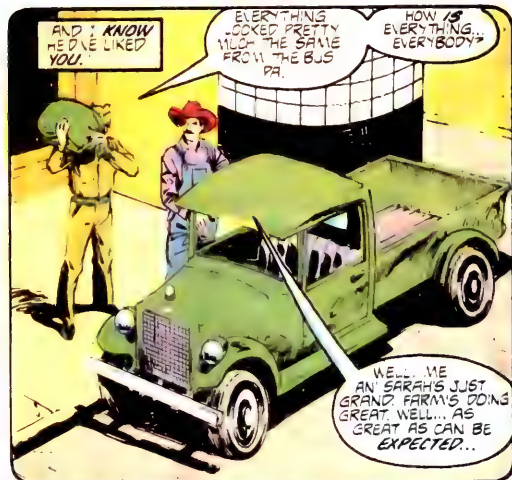
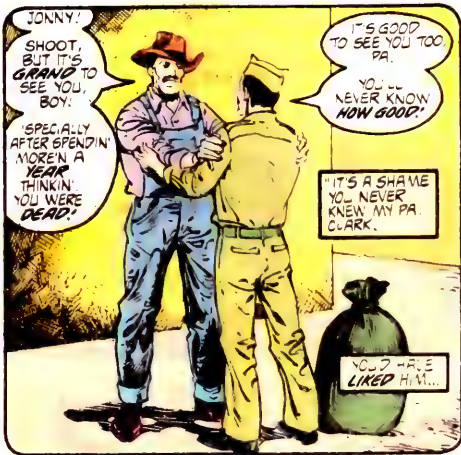


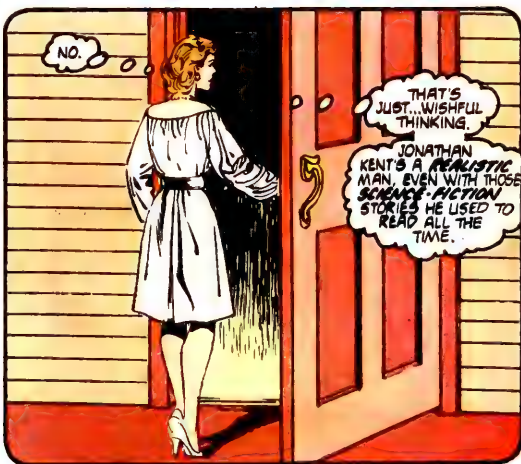
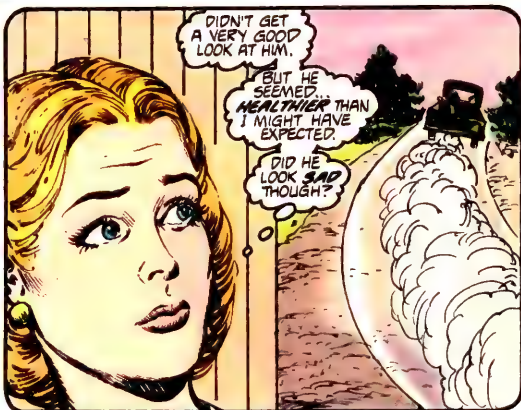
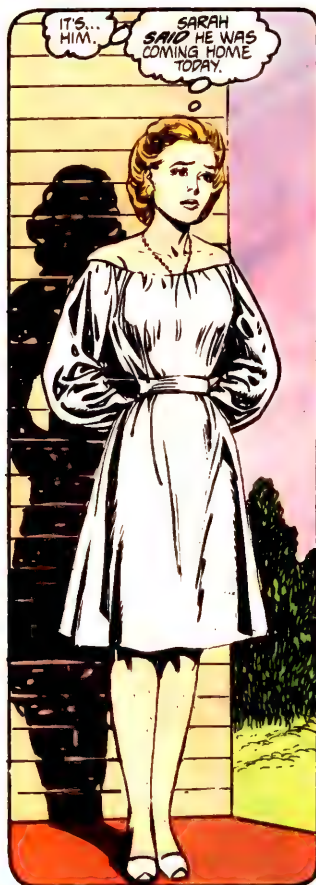


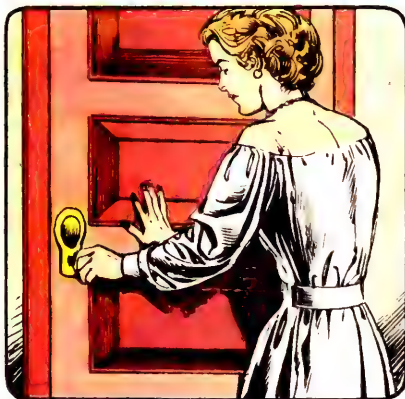
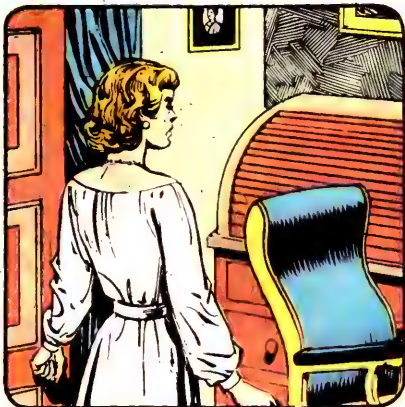




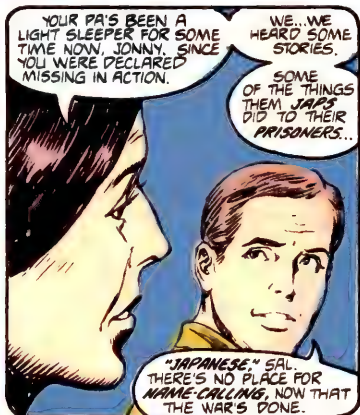
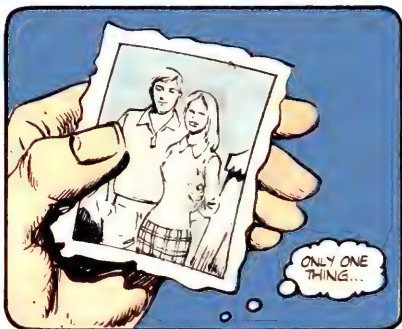
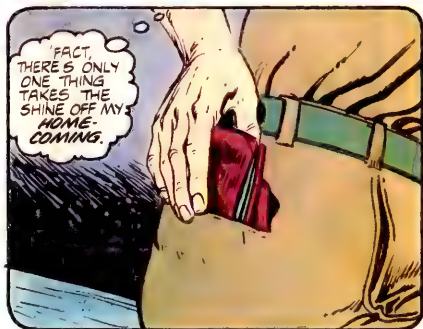
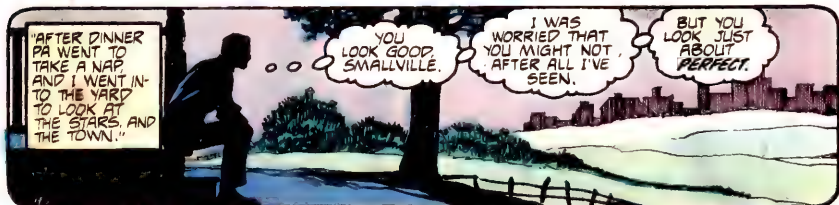
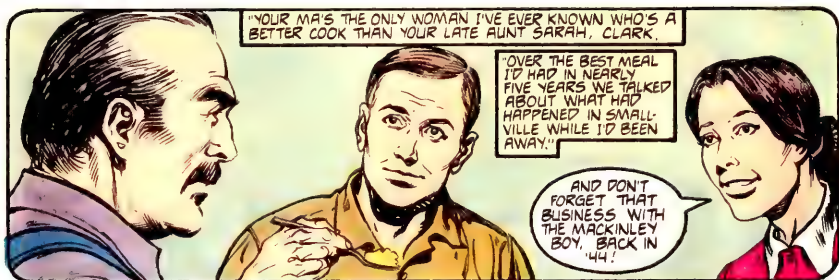














WHAT
HAPPENED
WAS... **BAD**.
REAL **BAD**.

BUT... IT'S OVER
AND **FINISHED** NOW.
NO POINT... **DWELLING**
ON IT.



BUT...
EVEN THROUGH
ALL **THAT**, YOU
KEPT HER
PICTURE?

DON'T TRY TO
DENY IT, JONNY.
I GOT **EYES**. I **SAW**
WHAT I **SAW**.

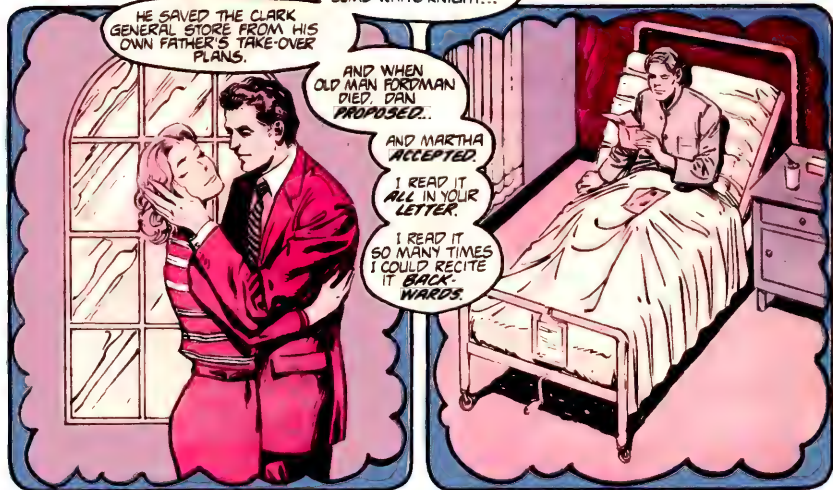
AND I DON'T
NEED TO BE HIT
OVER THE HEAD WITH
IT, TO KNOW YOU
STILL **LOVE** MARTHA
CLARK.

MARTHA
FORDMAN,
SAL.

SHE DIDN'T
WAIT FOR ME TO
COME BACK FROM BE-
ING A SOLDIER BOY.
NOT LIKE IN THE
MOVING PICTURES.

AND YOU
NEEDN'T REMIND
ME HOW OLD MAN
FORDMAN WAS PUT-
TING THE SCREWS
TO MARTHA'S
PA...

HOW PROUD HAND-
SOME DAN FORDMAN CAME
RIDING TO THE RESCUE LIKE
SOME WHITE KNIGHT...



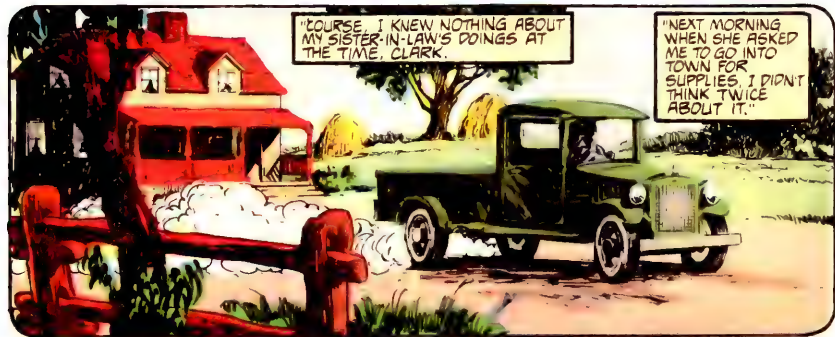
HE SAVED THE CLARK
GENERAL STORE FROM HIS
OWN FATHER'S TAKE-OVER
PLANS.

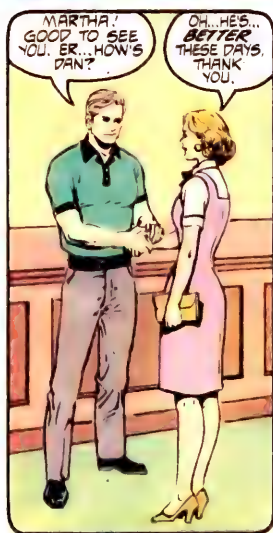
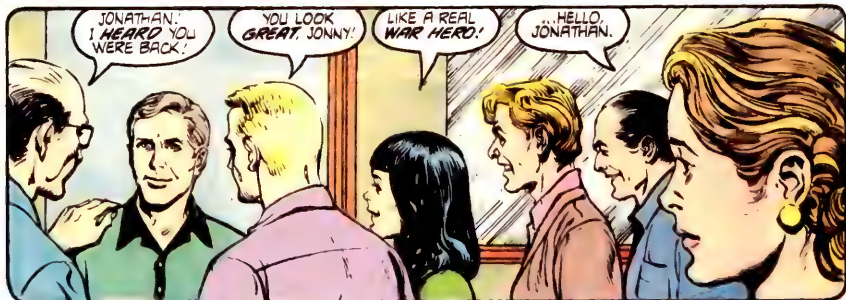
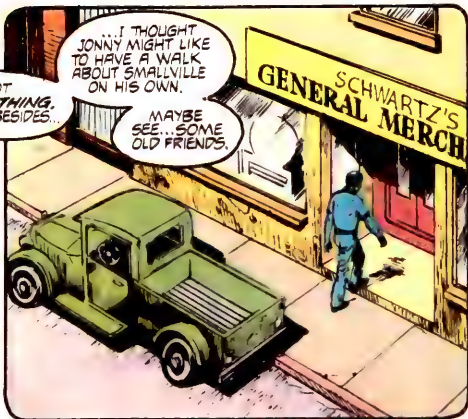
AND WHEN
OLD MAN FORDMAN
DIED, DAN
PROPOSED...

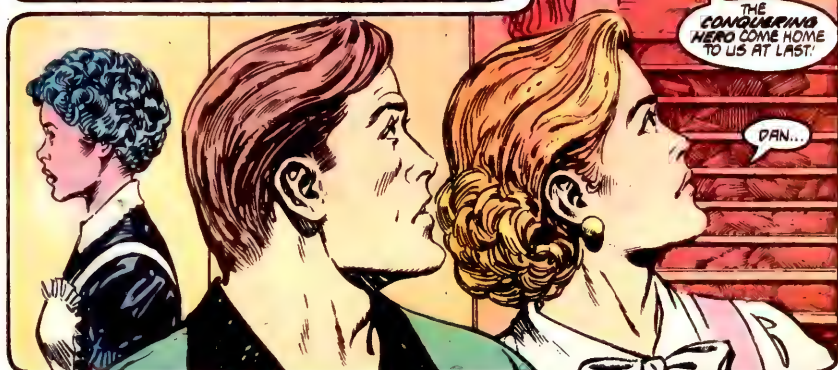
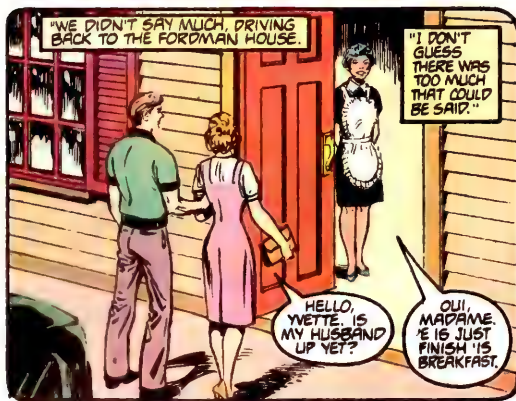
AND MARTHA
ACCEPTED.

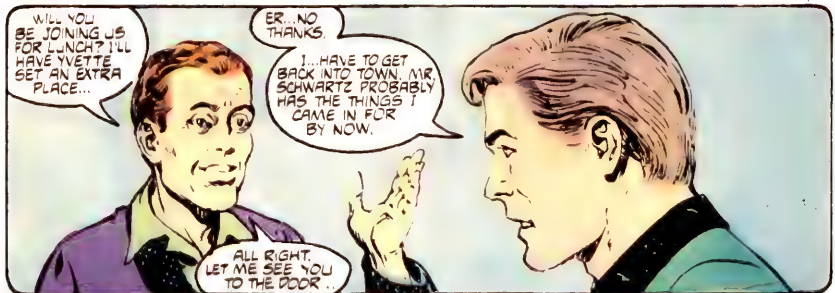
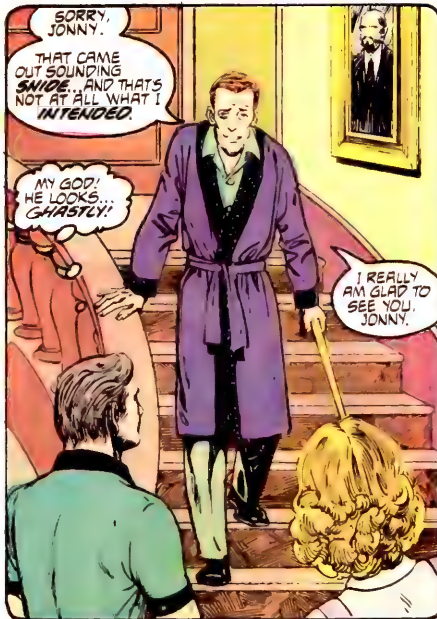
I READ IT
ALL IN YOUR
LETTER.

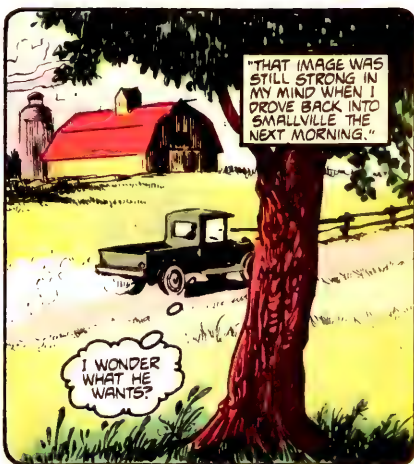
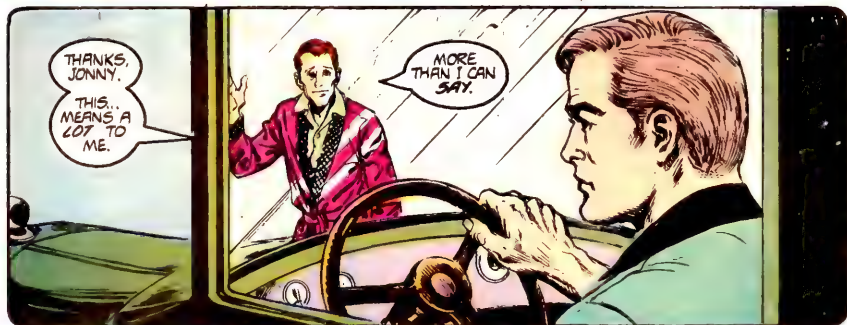
I READ IT
SO MANY TIMES
I COULD RECITE
IT **BACK-**
WARDS.

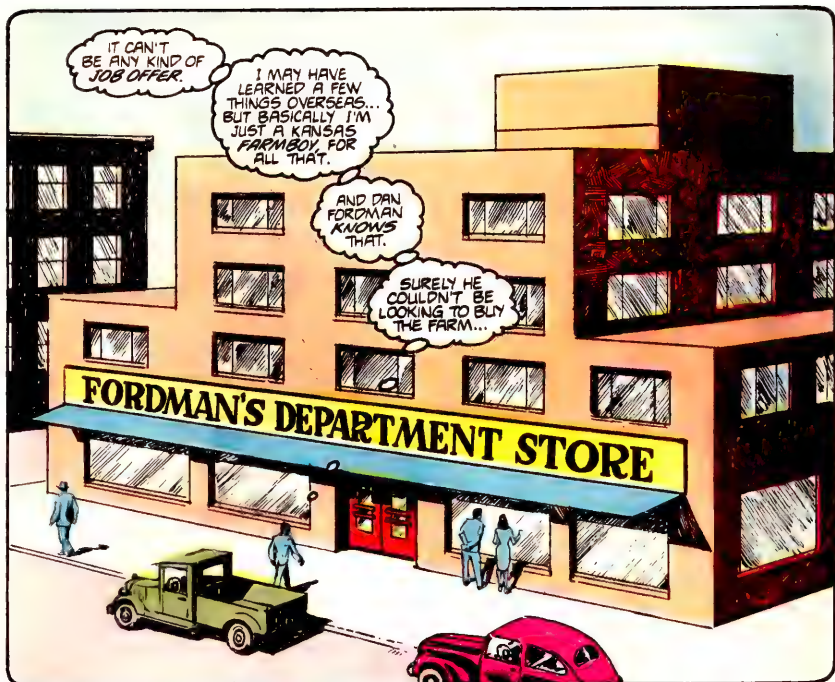


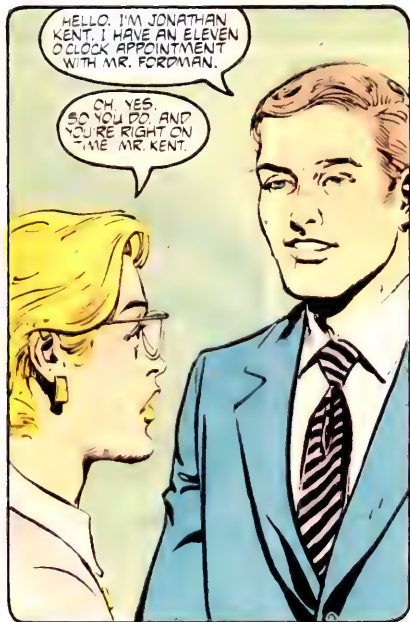




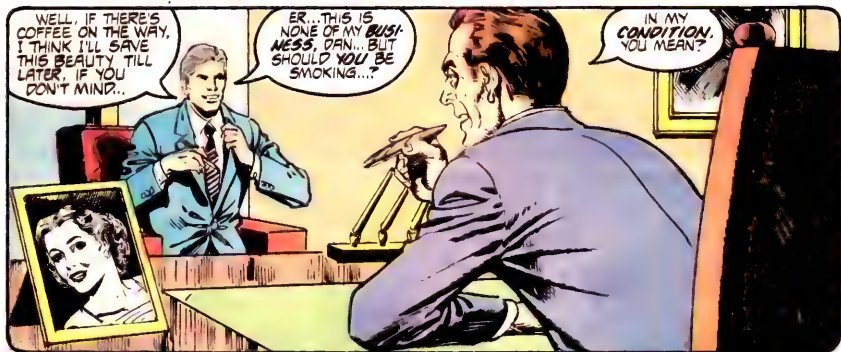


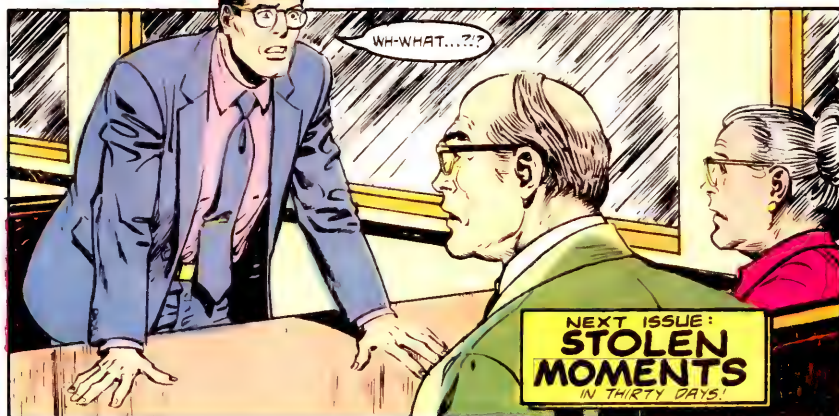








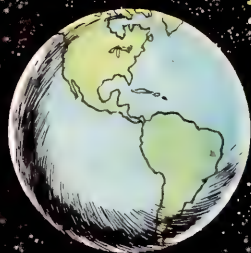




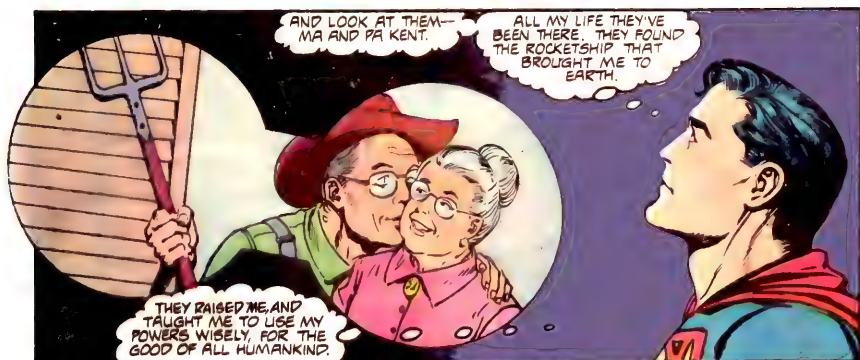
THE WORLD OF
SMALLVILLE
FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

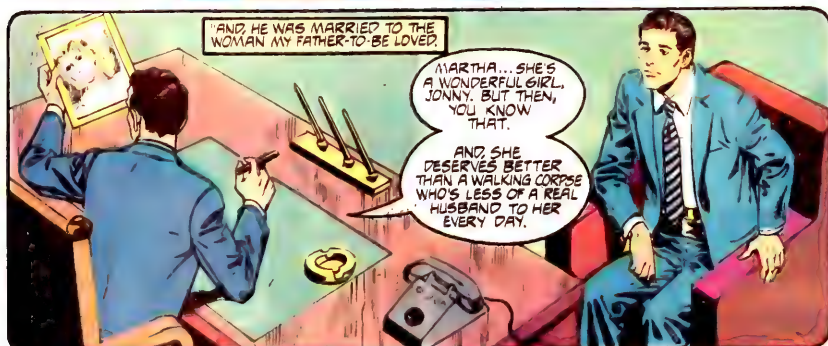
Stolen Moments

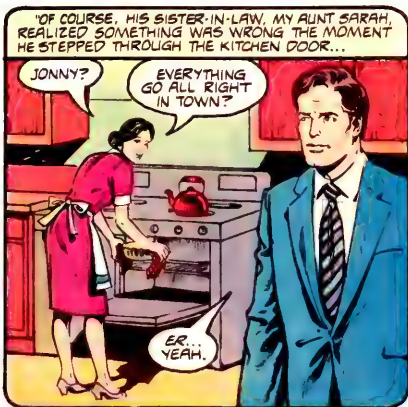
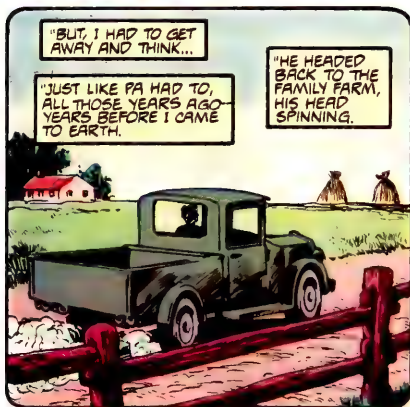
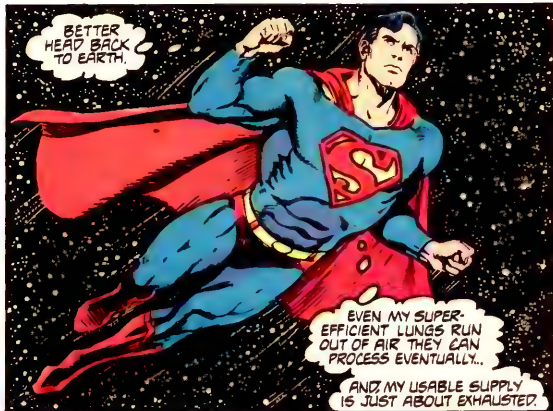
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!
I REALLY
CAN'T.



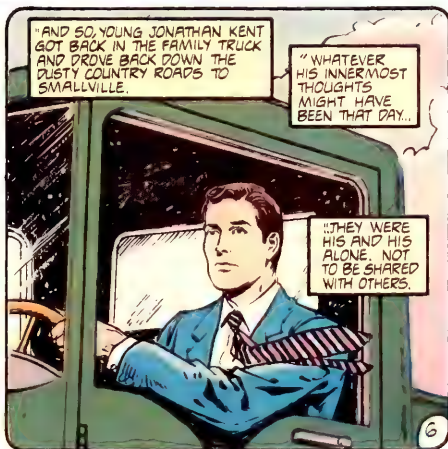
JOHN BYRNE
STORY
KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
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PETRA SCOTSE
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EDITOR

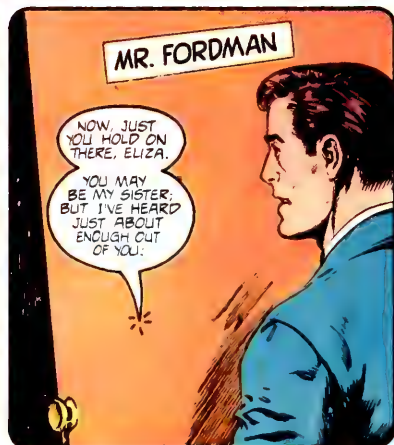
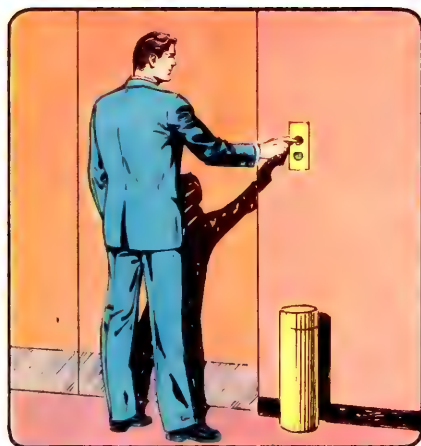
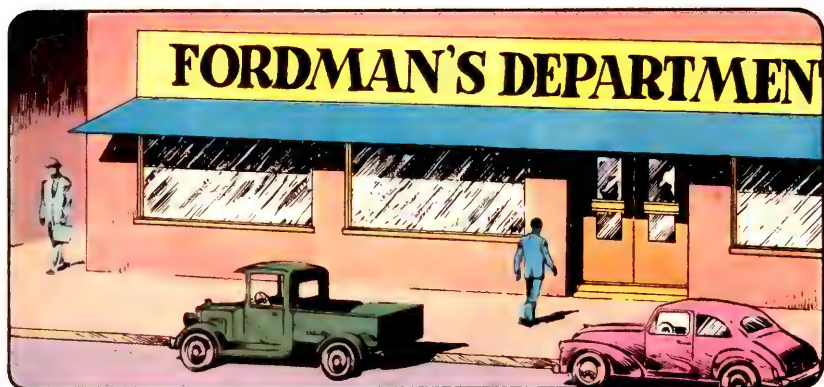


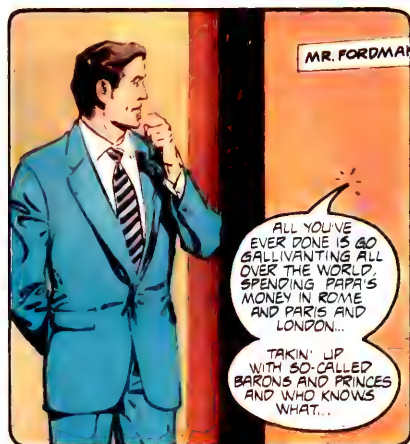




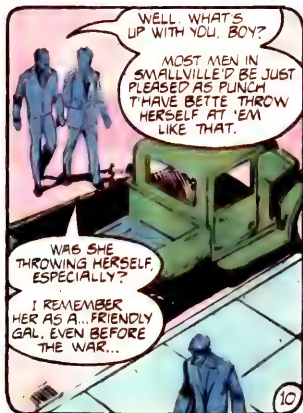


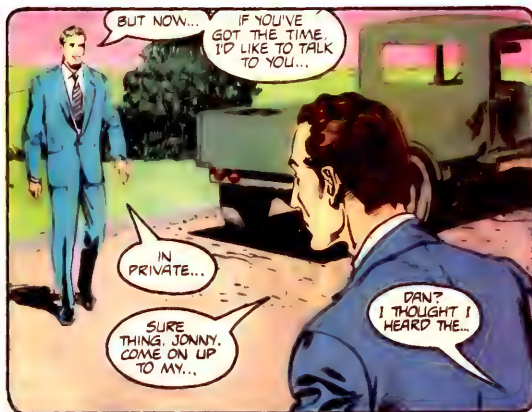
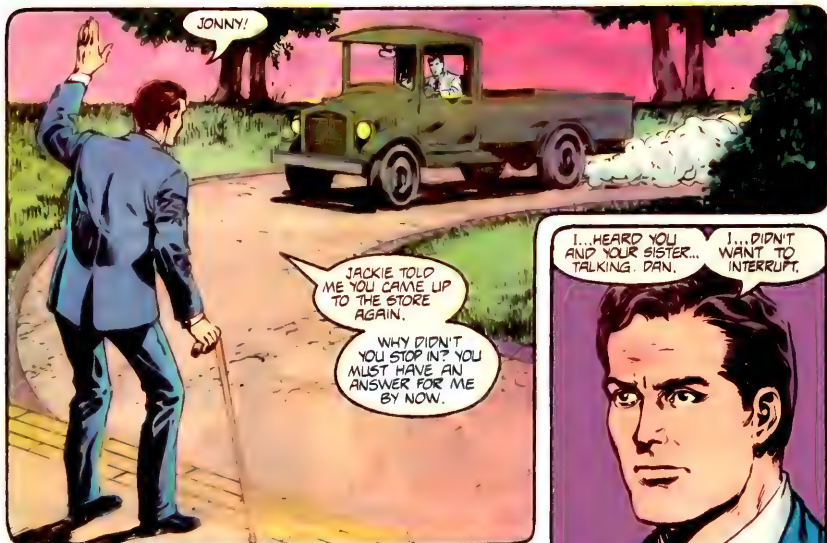
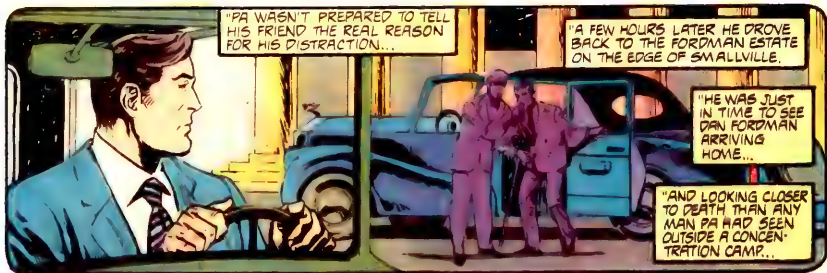


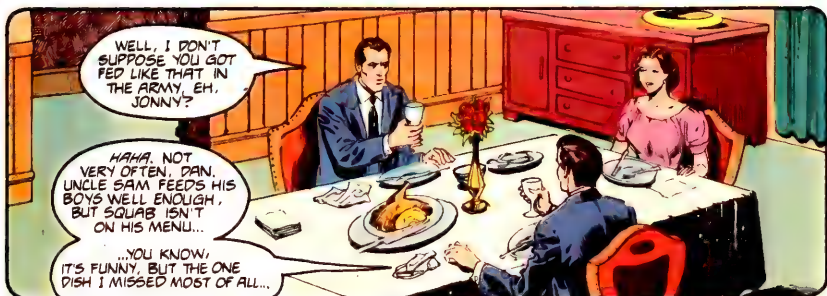


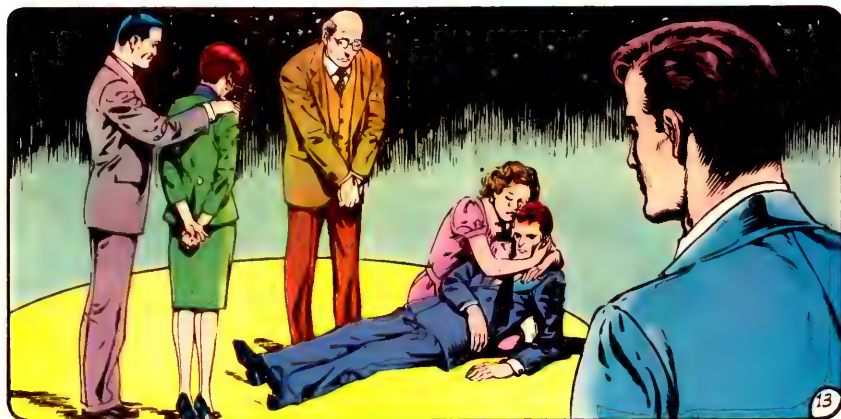
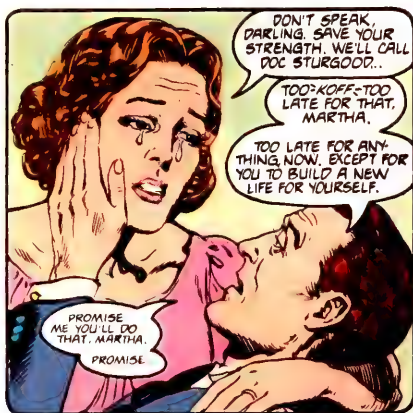
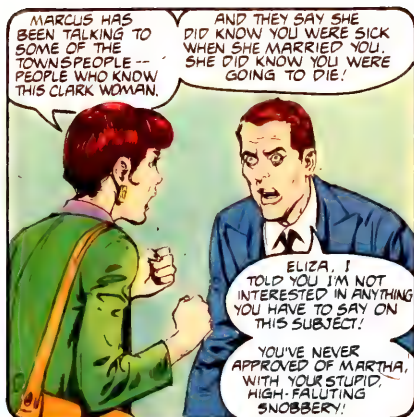


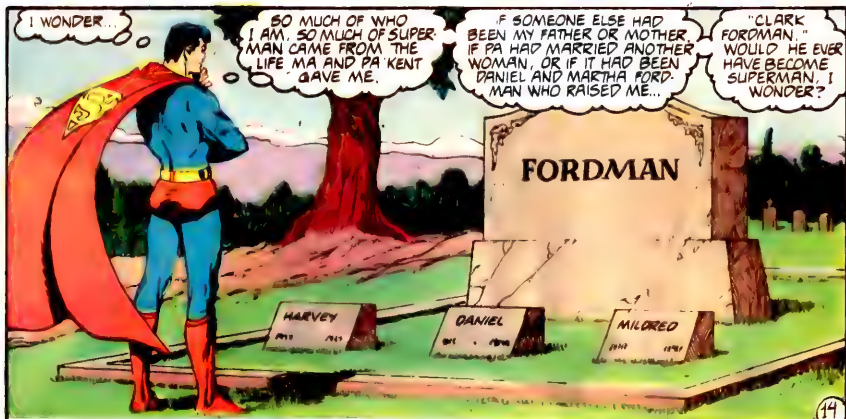
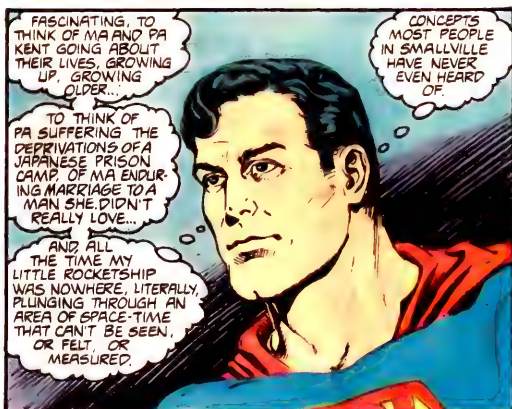
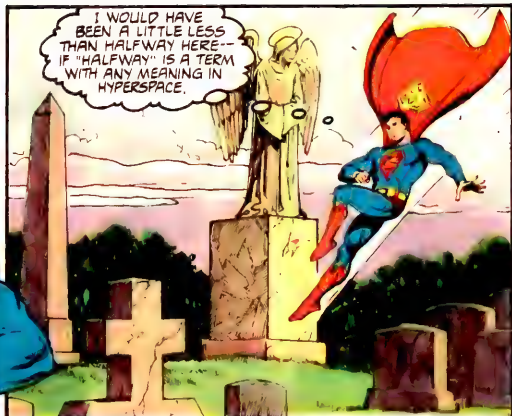
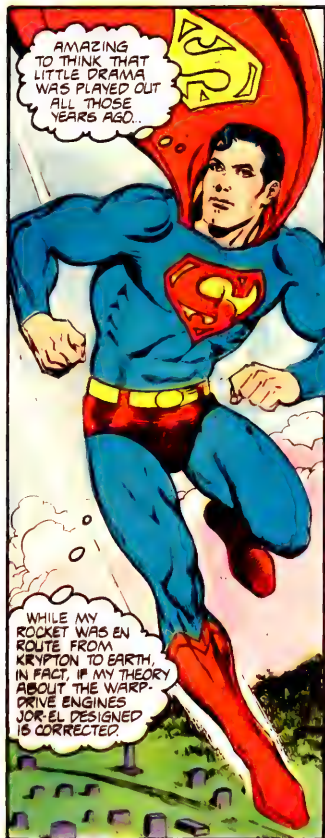


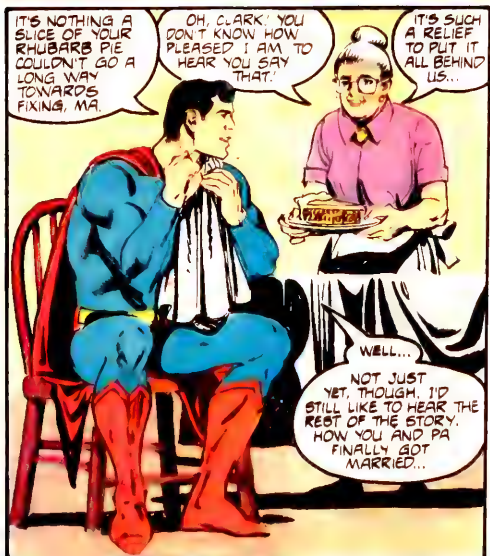
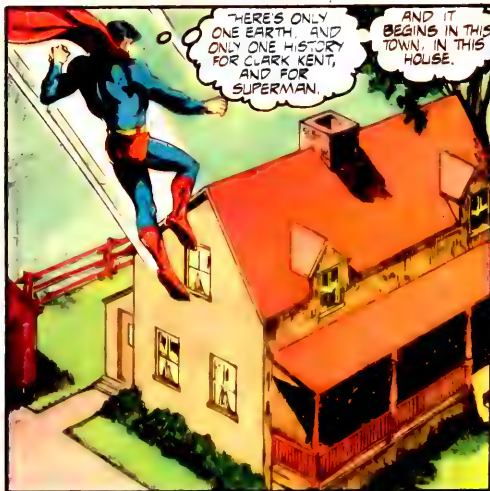


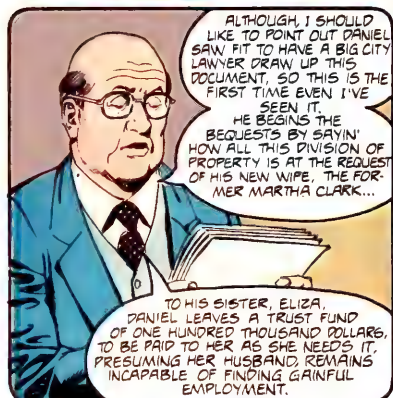


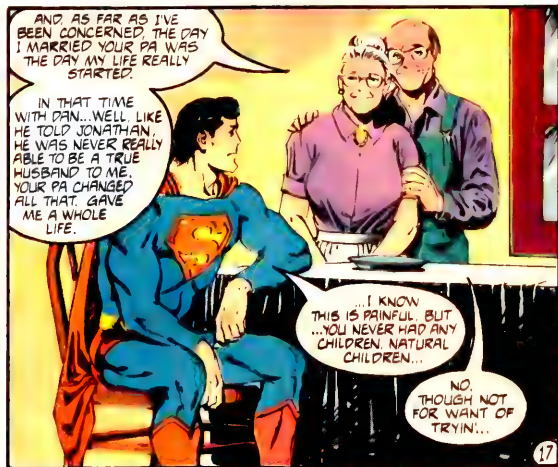
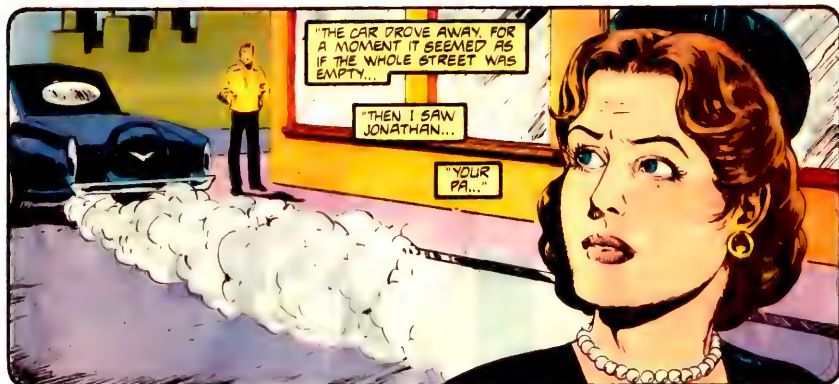
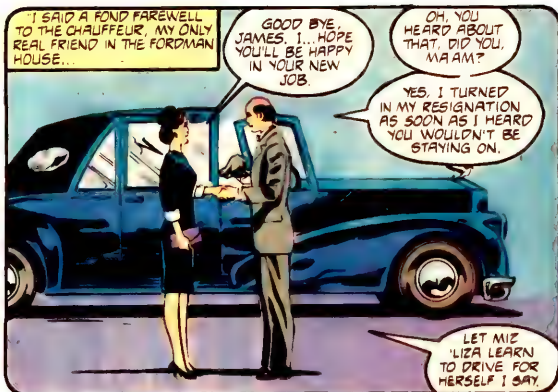


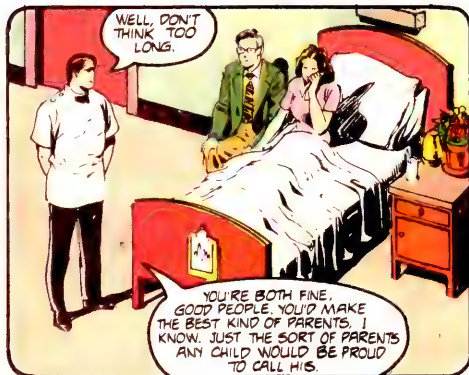
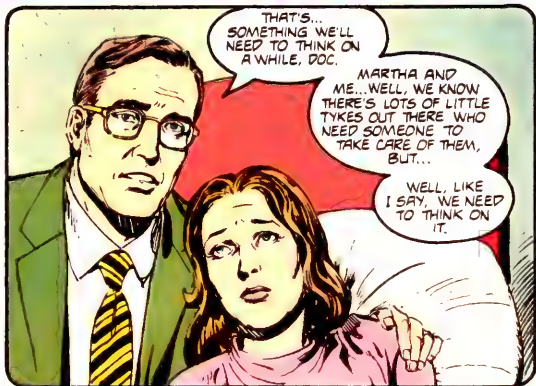
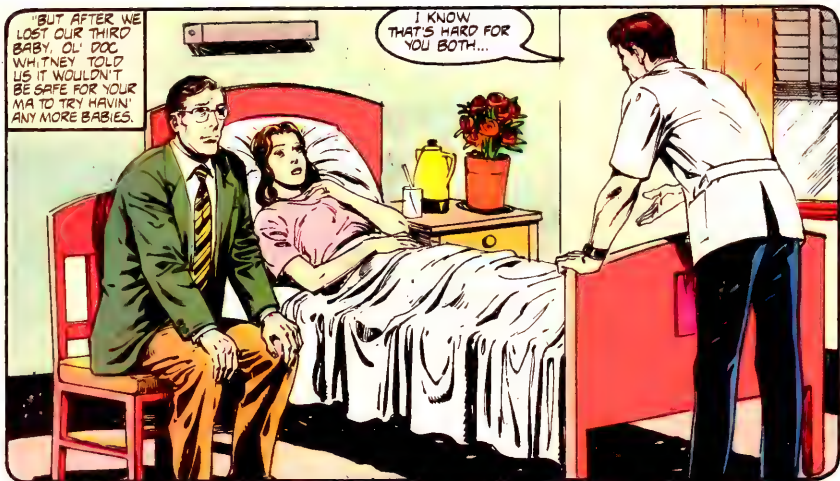


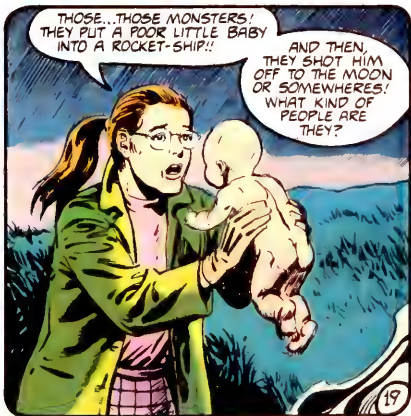
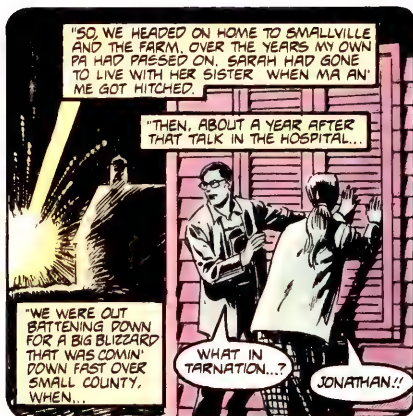


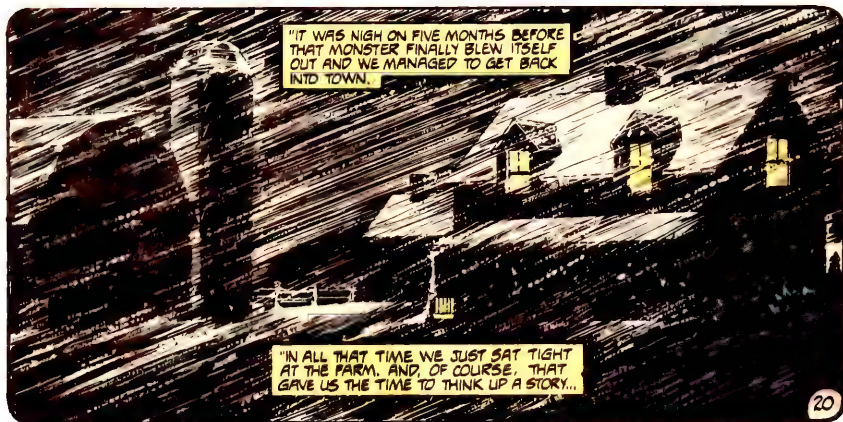
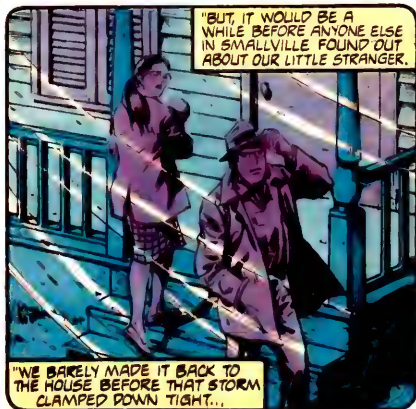
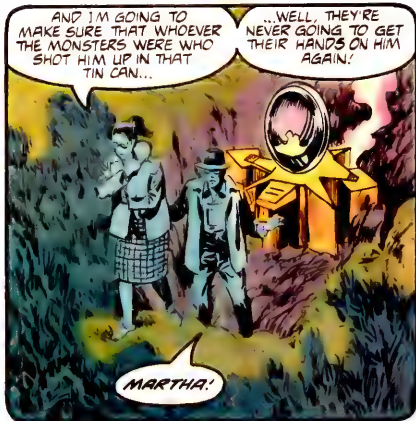
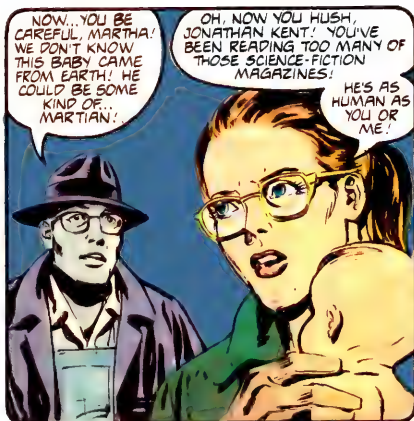










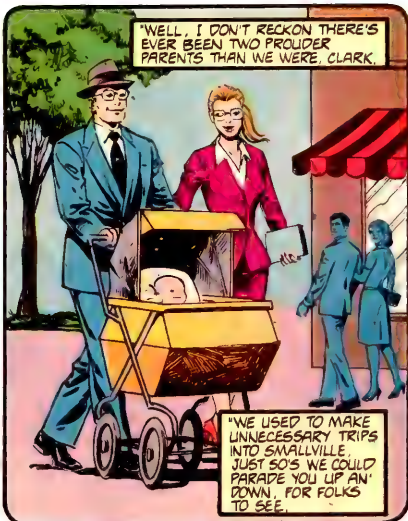


"IT WAS YOUR MA'S IDEA, MOSTLY. BY THE TIME WE WERE ABLE TO GET INTO TOWN AGAIN YOU WERE JUST ABOUT AS BIG AS YOU'D HAVE BEEN IF YOU'D BEEN BORN JUST A FEW MONTHS INTO THE STORM..."

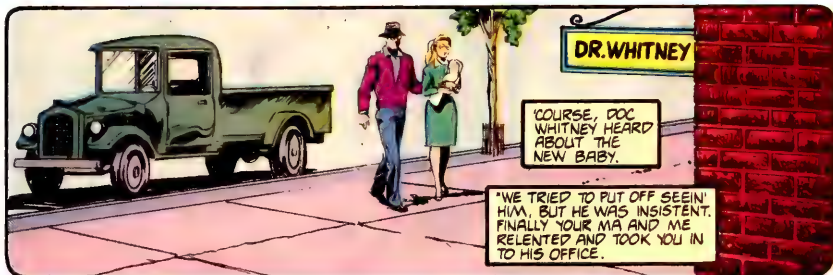
"SO, WE JUST TOLD EVERYONE THAT'S WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND THEY ACCEPTED LITTLE CLARK KENT. NO QUESTIONS ASKED."



"WELL, I DON'T RECKON THERE'S EVER BEEN TWO PROUDER PARENTS THAN WE WERE, CLARK."

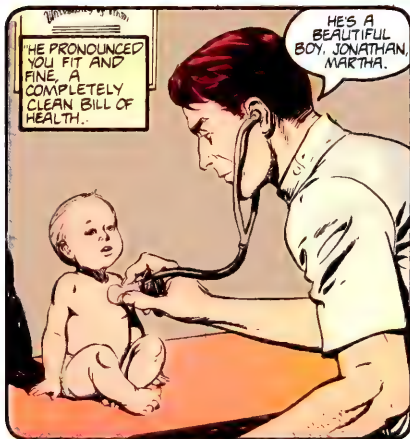


"WE USED TO MAKE UNNECESSARY TRIPS INTO SMALLVILLE, JUST SO'S WE COULD PARADE YOU UP AN' DOWN, FOR FOLKS TO SEE."



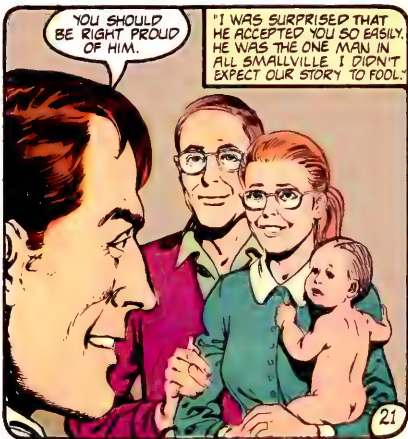
"COURSE, DOC WHITNEY HEARD ABOUT THE NEW BABY."

"WE TRIED TO PUT OFF SEEIN' HIM, BUT HE WAS INSISTENT. FINALLY YOUR MA AND ME RELENTED AND TOOK YOU IN TO HIS OFFICE."



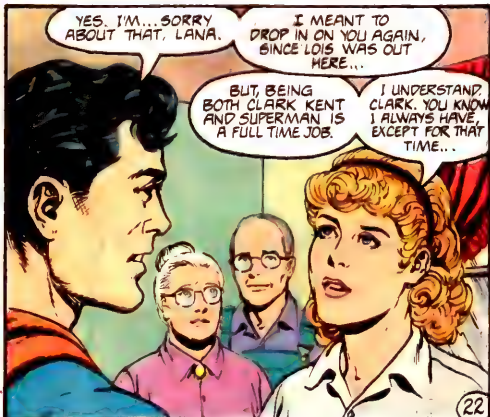
"HE PRONOUNCED YOU FIT AND FINE, A COMPLETELY CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH."

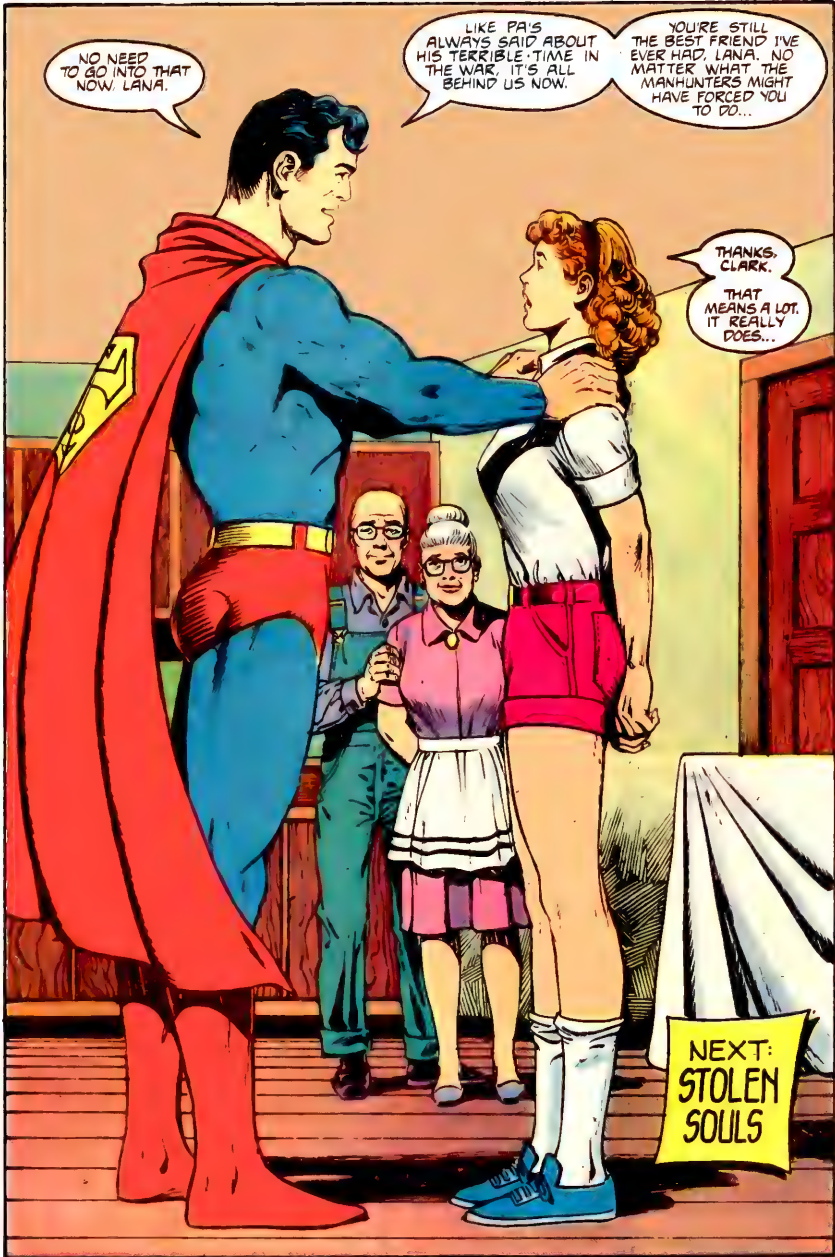
"HE'S A BEAUTIFUL BOY, JONATHAN, MARTHA."



"YOU SHOULD BE RIGHT PROUD OF HIM."

"I WAS SURPRISED THAT HE ACCEPTED YOU SO EASILY. HE WAS THE ONE MAN IN ALL SMALLVILLE I DIDN'T EXPECT OUR STORY TO FOOL."





NO NEED
TO GO INTO THAT
NOW, LANA.

LIKE PA'S
ALWAYS SAID ABOUT
HIS TERRIBLE TIME IN
THE WAR, IT'S ALL
BEHIND US NOW.

YOU'RE STILL
THE BEST FRIEND I'VE
EVER HAD, LANA. NO
MATTER WHAT THE
MANHUNTERS MIGHT
HAVE FORCED YOU
TO DO...

THANKS,
CLARK.

THAT
MEANS A LOT.
IT REALLY
DOES...

NEXT:
STOLEN
SOULS

**FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER**

STOLEN SOULS



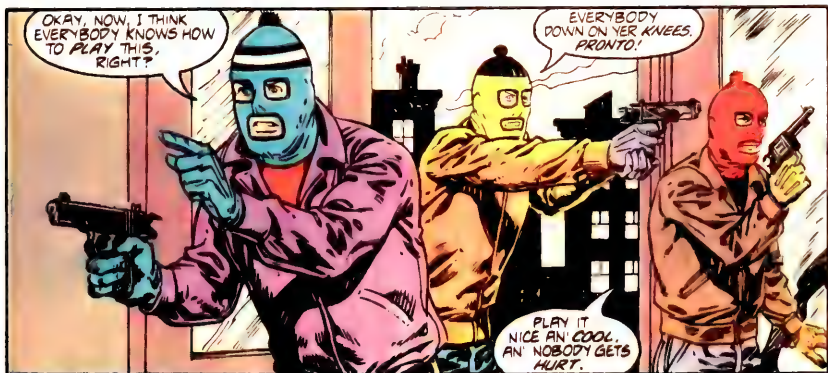
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CARRIE SPIEGLE~LETTERER • PETRA SCOTese~COLORIST • MIKE CARLYN~EDITOR

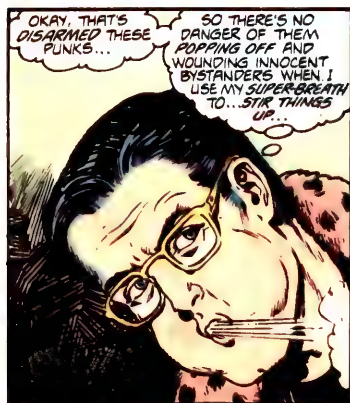
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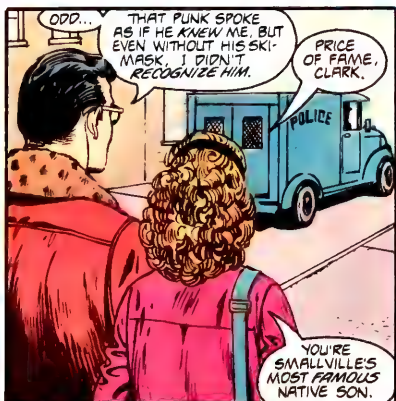
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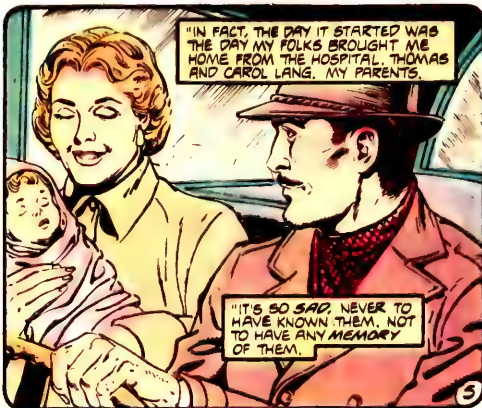
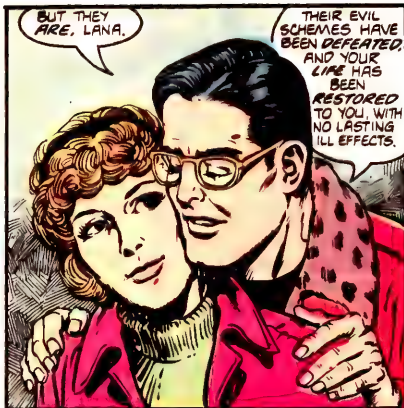
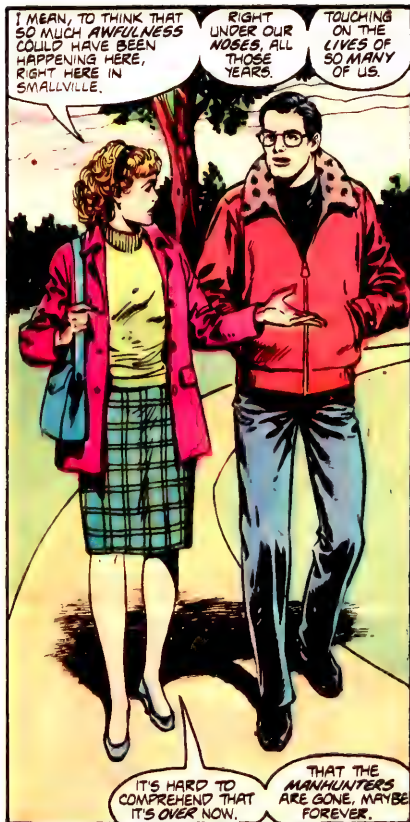
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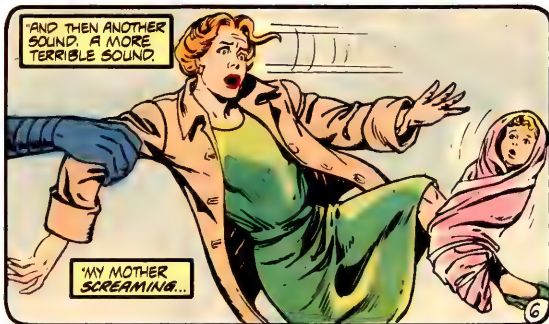
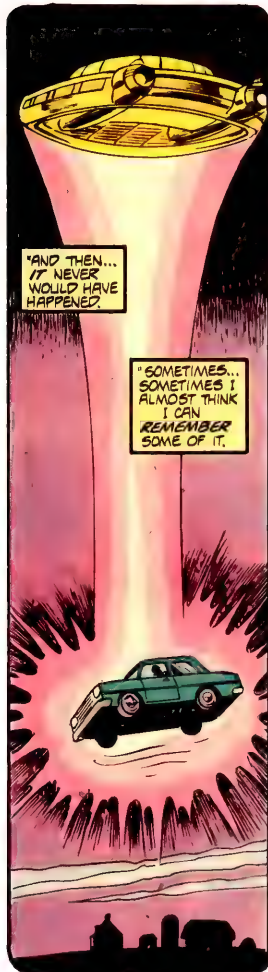
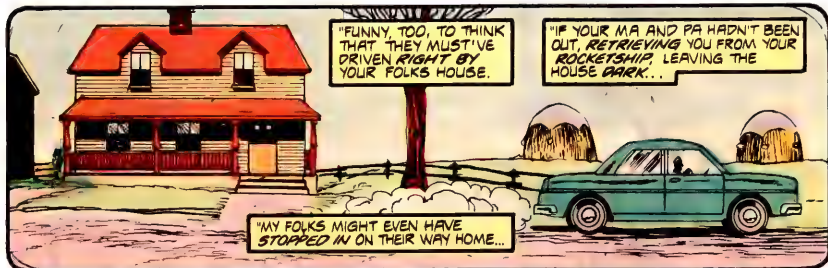
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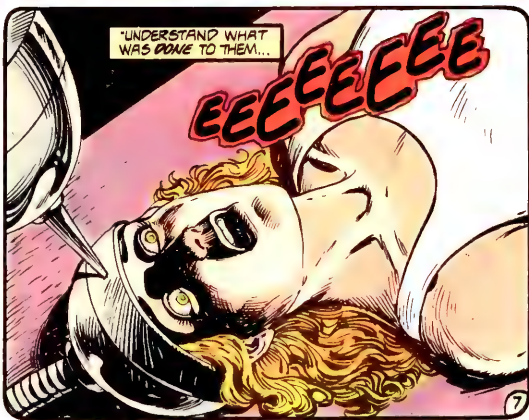
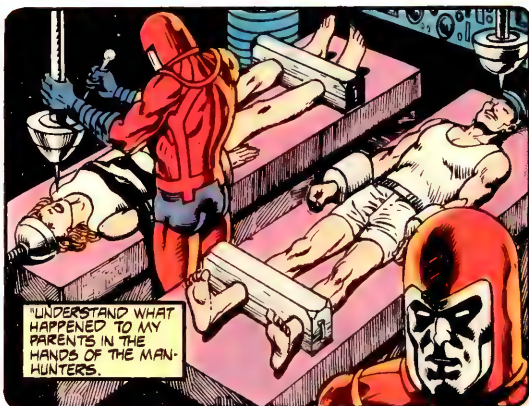
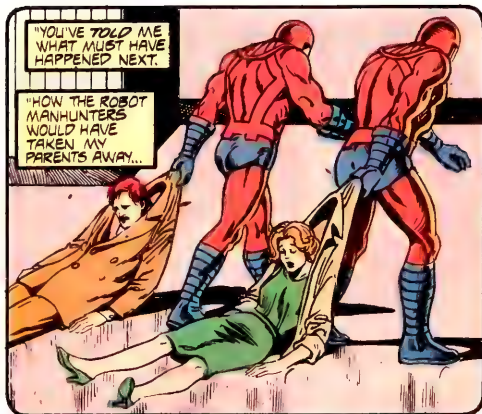


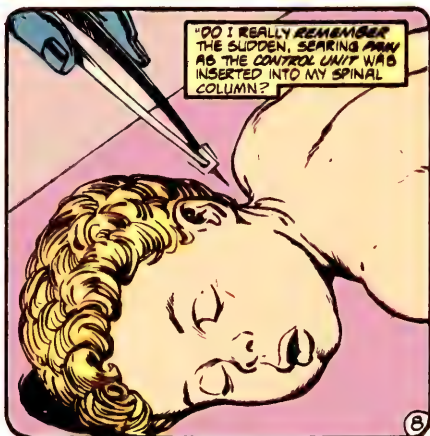
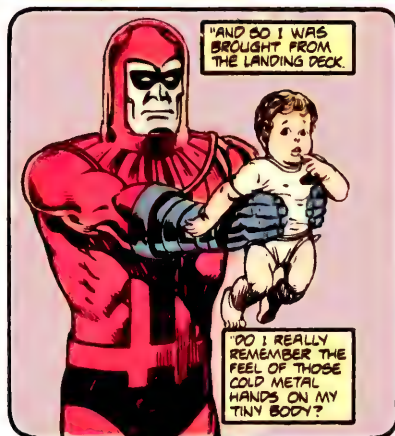
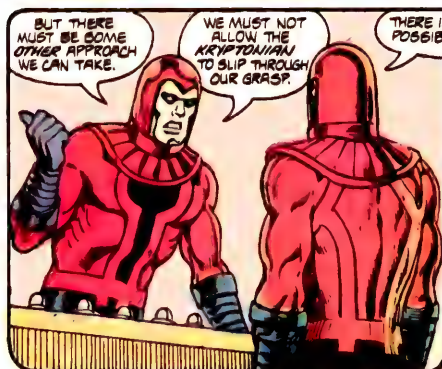
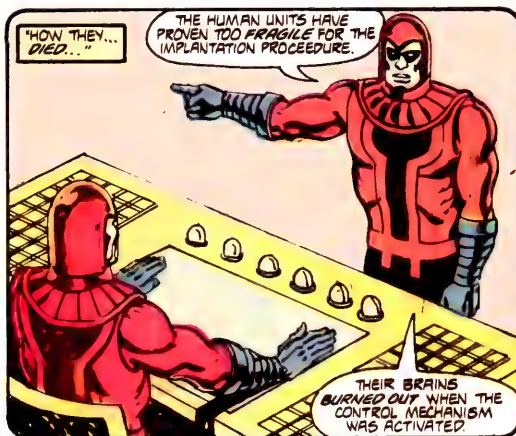










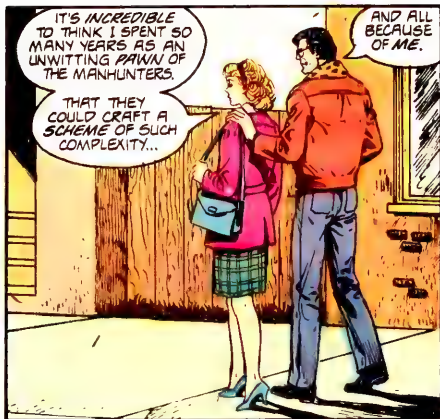




MAYBE NOT...

BUT I REMEMBER HOW I FELT AFTER YOU REMOVED IT, CLARK.

AS IF A PIECE OF MY SOUL HAD BEEN REMOVED.



IT'S INCREDIBLE TO THINK I SPENT SO MANY YEARS AS AN UNWITTING PAWN OF THE MANHUNTERS.

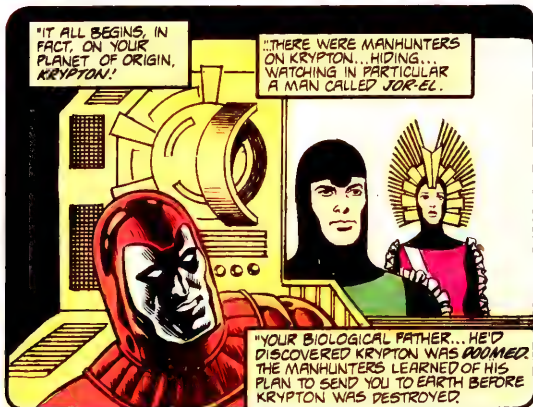
THAT THEY COULD CRAFT A SCHEME OF SUCH COMPLEXITY...

AND ALL BECAUSE OF ME.



"REMEMBER HOW THE FALSE DOCTOR WHITNEY, THE MANHUNTER AGENT, EXPLAINED IT TO ME, WHEN HE THOUGHT I WAS HIS HELPLESS CAPTIVE..."

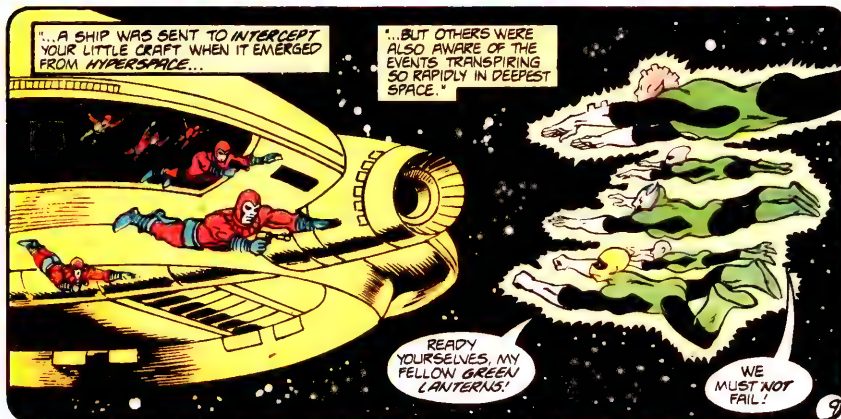
...ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE PLAN, YOU WILL COME TO SEE HOW FUTILE IT IS TO STAND AGAINST THE MANHUNTERS!



"IT ALL BEGINS, IN FACT, ON YOUR PLANET OF ORIGIN, KRYPTON!"

"THERE WERE MANHUNTERS ON KRYPTON... HIDING... WATCHING IN PARTICULAR A MAN CALLED JOR-EL."

"YOUR BIOLOGICAL FATHER... HE'D DISCOVERED KRYPTON WAS DOOMED. THE MANHUNTERS LEARNED OF HIS PLAN TO SEND YOU TO EARTH BEFORE KRYPTON WAS DESTROYED."

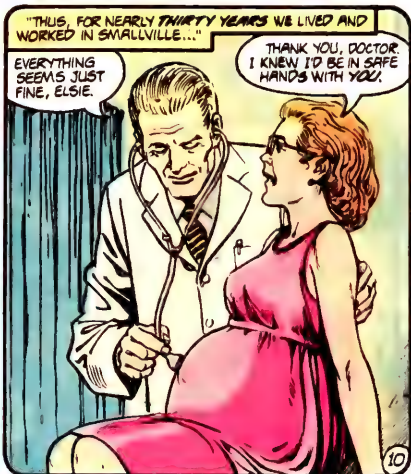
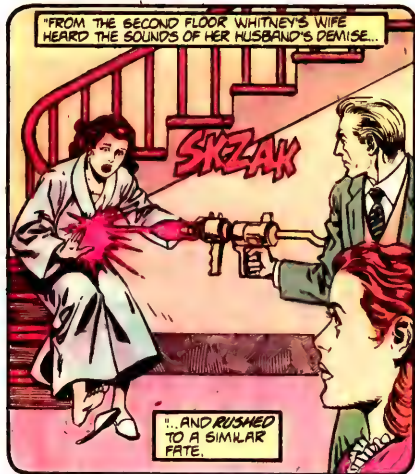


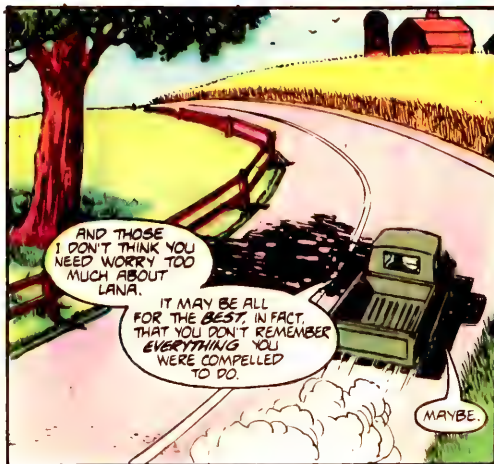
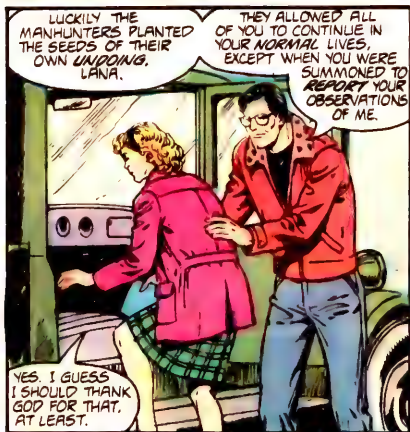
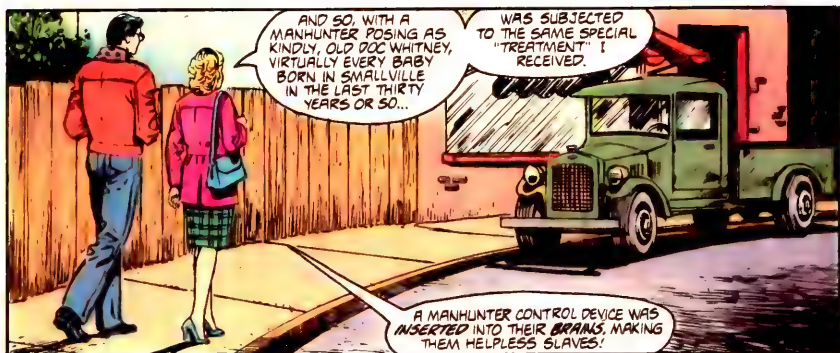
"...A SHIP WAS SENT TO INTERCEPT YOUR LITTLE CRAFT WHEN IT EMERGED FROM HYPERSPACE..."

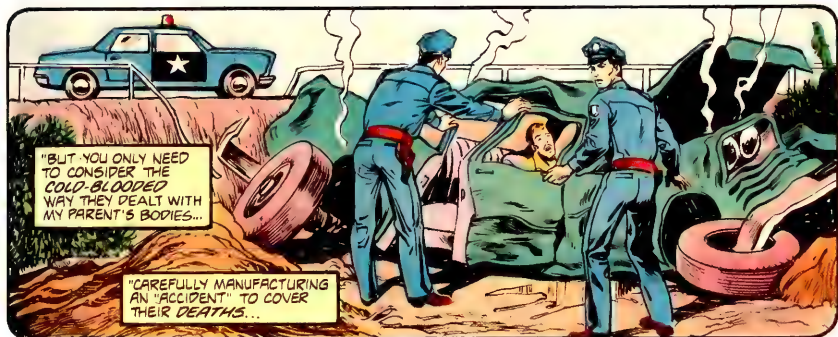
"...BUT OTHERS WERE ALSO AWARE OF THE EVENTS TRANSPIRING SO RAPIDLY IN DEEPEST SPACE."

READY YOURSELVES, MY FELLOW GREEN LANTERNS!

WE MUST NOT FAIL!

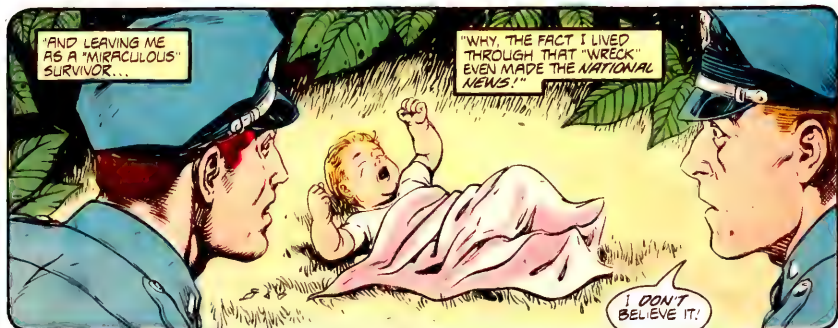






"BUT YOU ONLY NEED TO CONSIDER THE COLD-BLOODED WAY THEY DEALT WITH MY PARENT'S BODIES..."

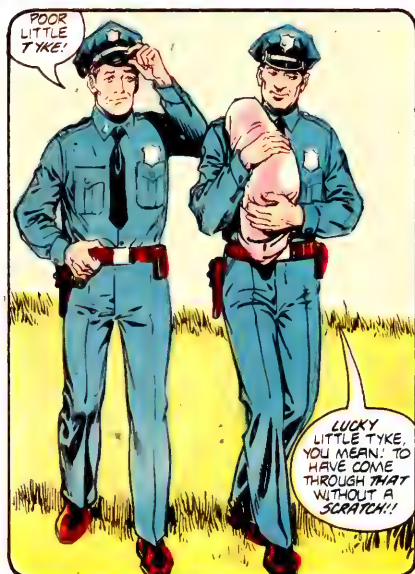
"CAREFULLY MANUFACTURING AN 'ACCIDENT' TO COVER THEIR DEATHS..."



"AND LEAVING ME AS A 'MIRACULOUS' SURVIVOR..."

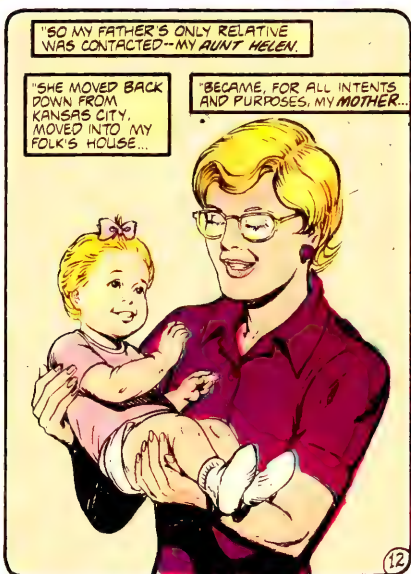
"WHY, THE FACT I LIVED THROUGH THAT 'WRECK' EVEN MADE THE NATIONAL NEWS!"

"I DON'T BELIEVE IT!"



"POOR LITTLE TYKE!"

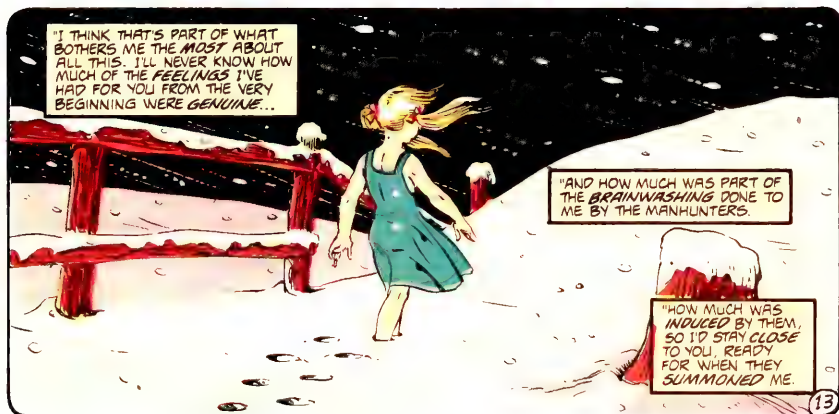
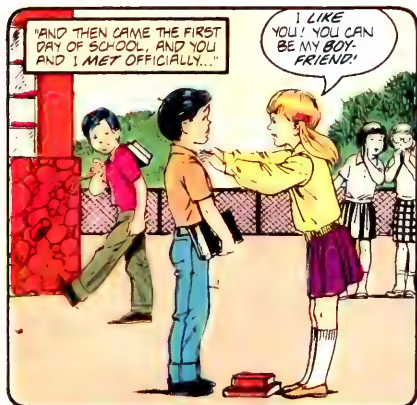
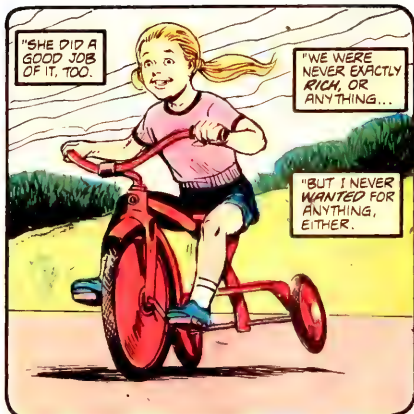
"LUCKY LITTLE TYKE, YOU MEAN: TO HAVE COME THROUGH THAT WITHOUT A SCRATCH!!"

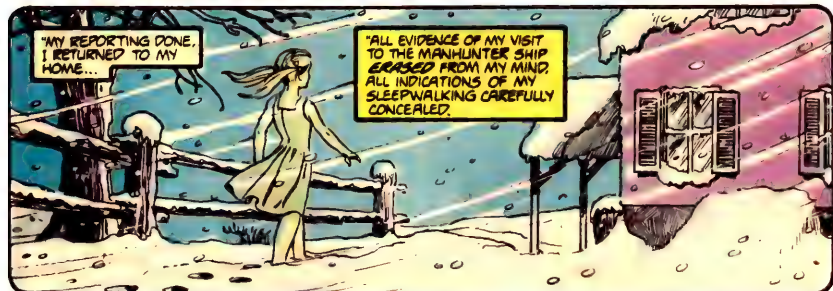
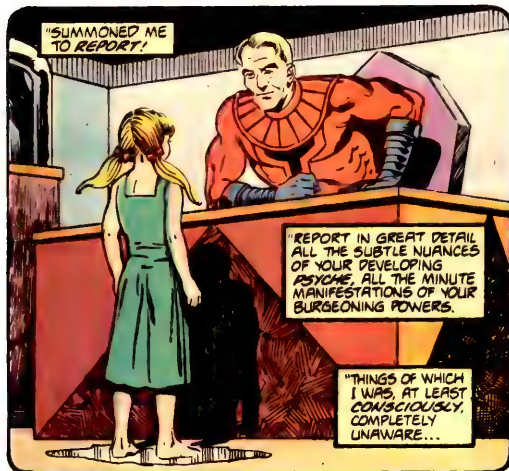


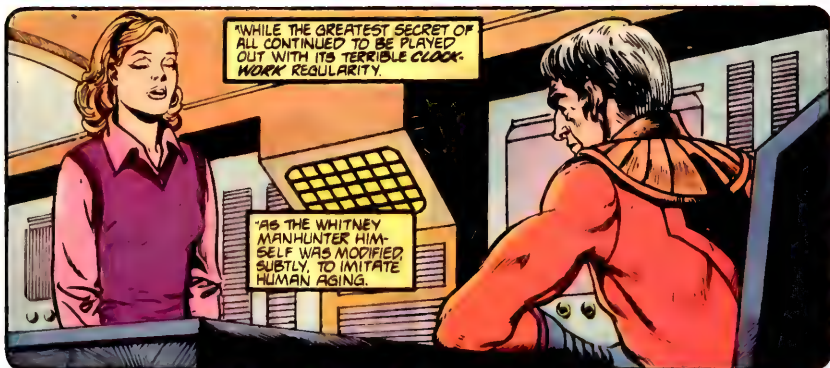
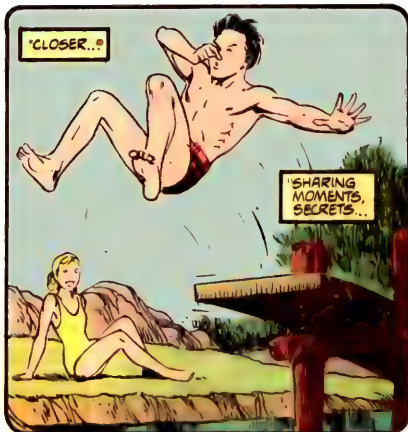
"SO MY FATHER'S ONLY RELATIVE WAS CONTACTED--MY AUNT HELEN."

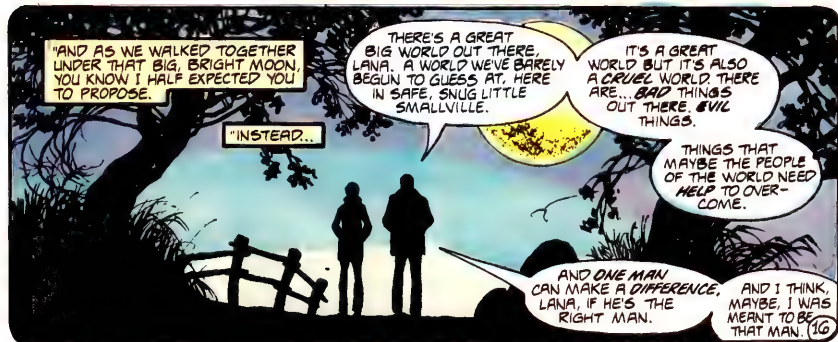
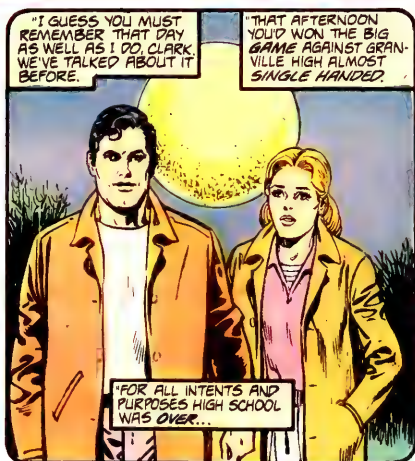
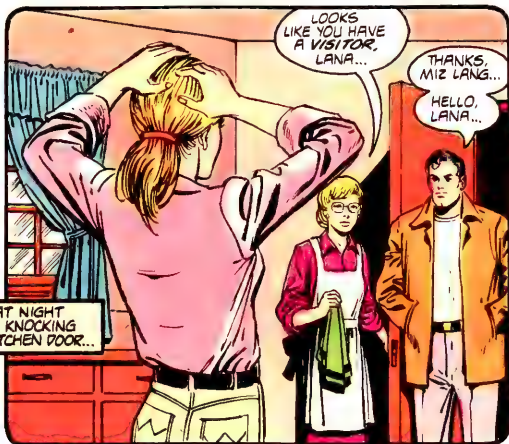
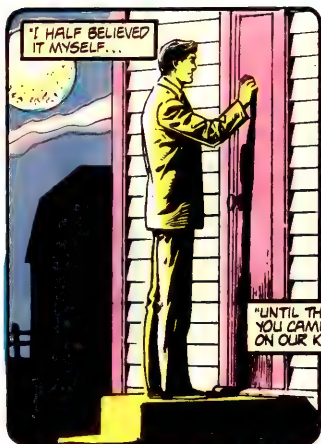
"SHE MOVED BACK DOWN FROM KANSAS CITY, MOVED INTO MY FOLK'S HOUSE..."

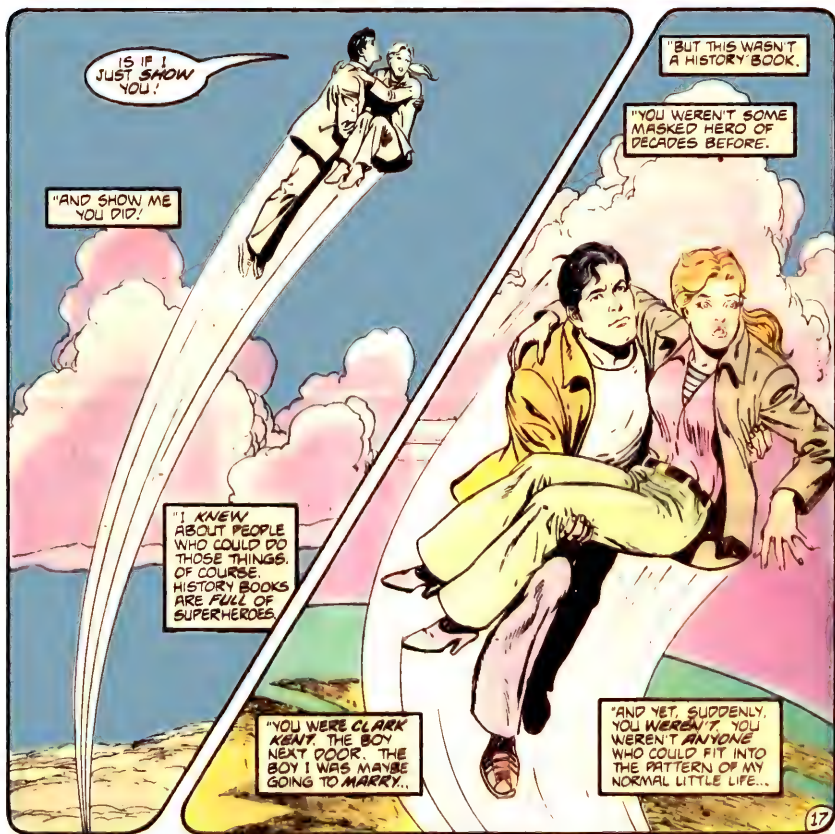
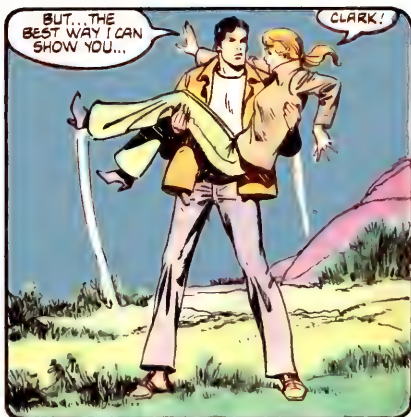
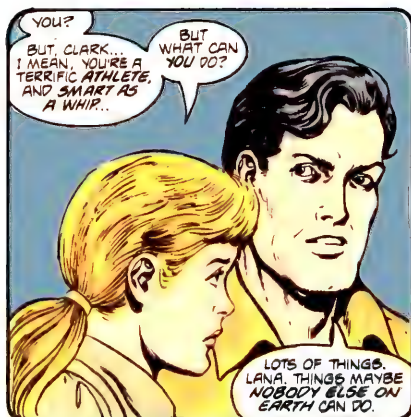
"BECAME, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, MY MOTHER..."

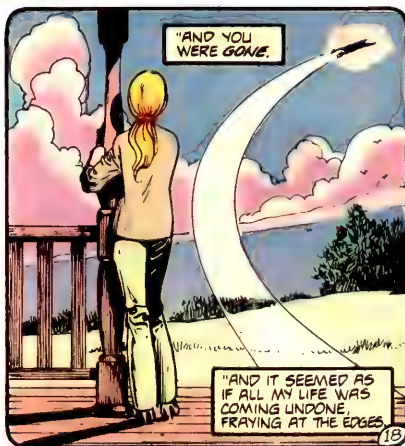
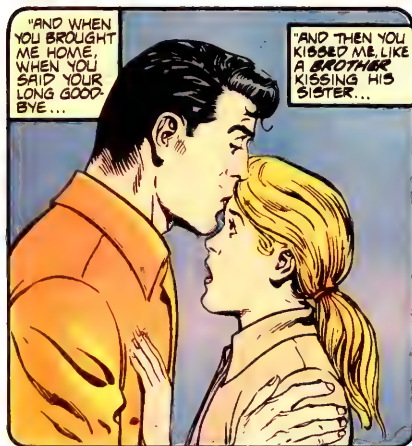
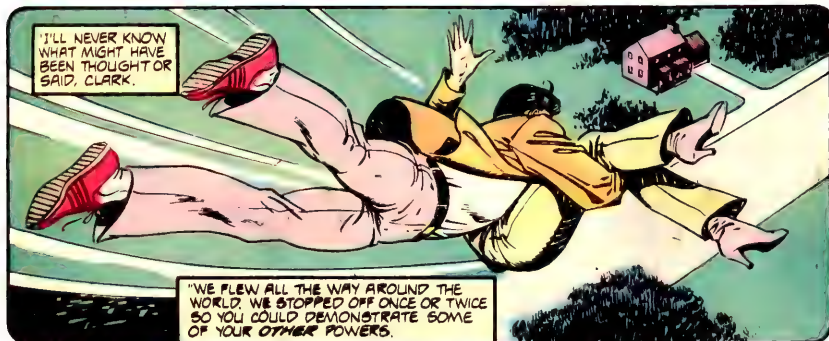
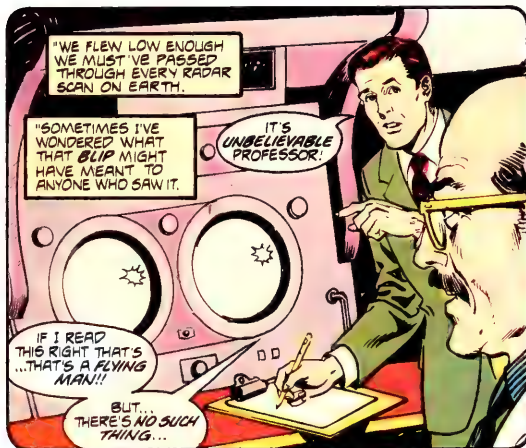


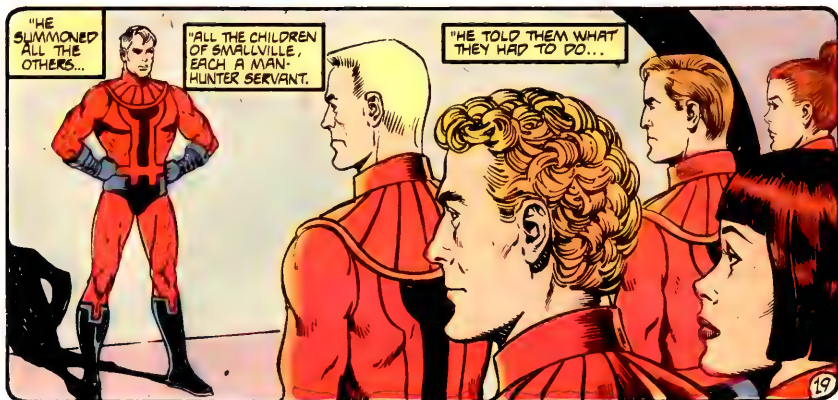
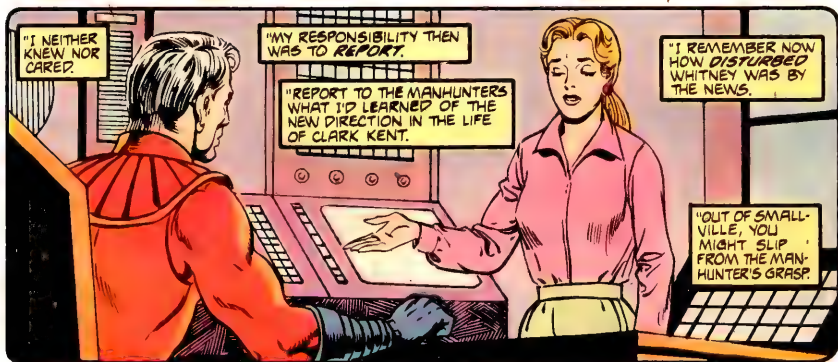
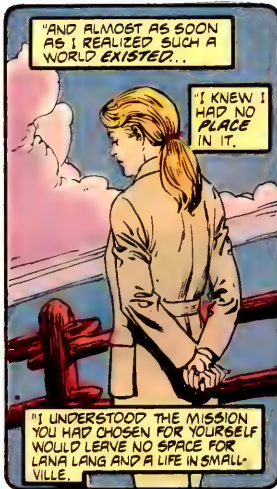


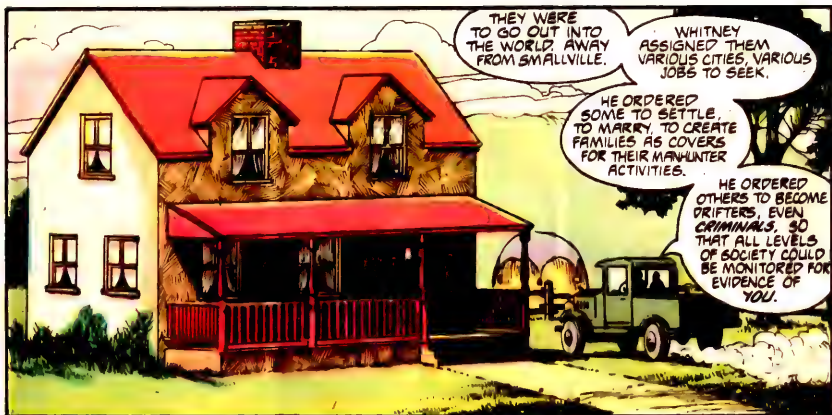












THEY WERE TO GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, AWAY FROM SMALLVILLE.

WHITNEY ASSIGNED THEM VARIOUS CITIES, VARIOUS JOBS TO SEEK.

HE ORDERED SOME TO SETTLE, TO MARRY, TO CREATE FAMILIES AS COVERS FOR THEIR MANHUNTER ACTIVITIES.

HE ORDERED OTHERS TO BECOME DRIFTERS, EVEN CRIMINALS, SO THAT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY COULD BE MONITORED FOR EVIDENCE OF YOU.

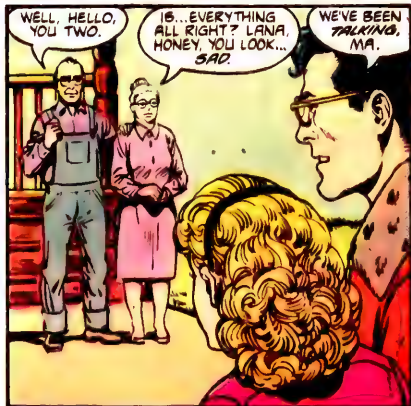


IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, EVEN NOW.

HARD TO BEAR THE FACT THAT ALL MY FRIENDS WERE USED LIKE THAT.

NO ONE BLAMES YOU, CLARK.

IN FACT, AS YOU WELL KNOW, EXCEPT FOR ME, NO ONE EVEN REMEMBERS ANY OF IT.



WELL, HELLO, YOU TWO.

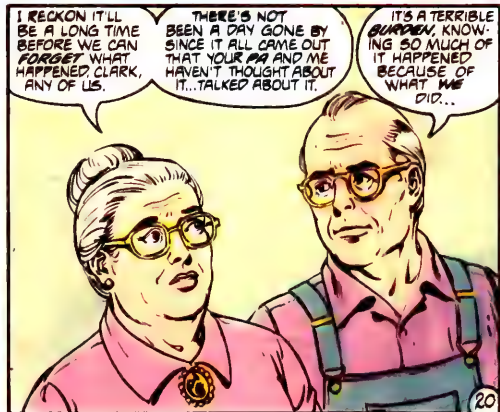
IS...EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? LANA, MONEY, YOU LOOK... SAD.

WE'VE BEEN TALKING, MA.



TALKING ABOUT THE MANHUNTERS, ABOUT WHAT THEY DID TO LANA AND THE OTHERS.

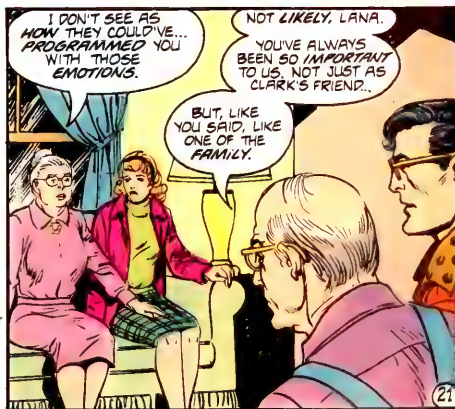
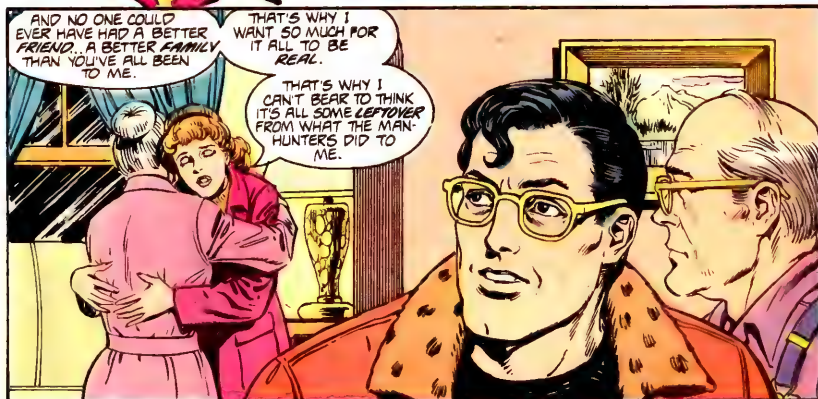
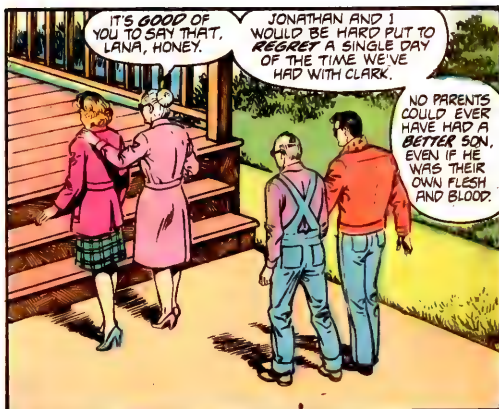
AND...WHAT I DID TO LANA, WITHOUT EVEN MEANING TO.

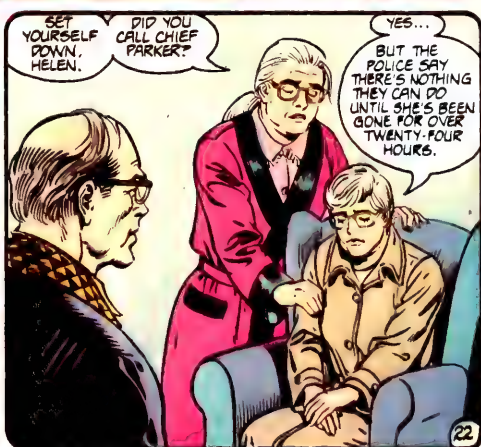
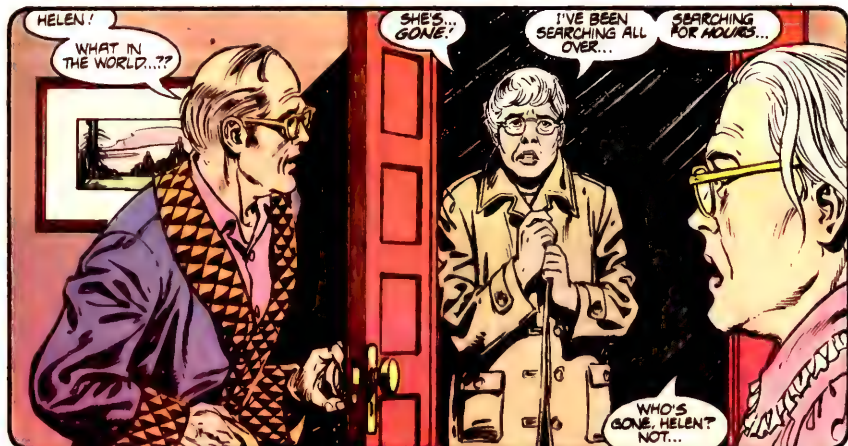
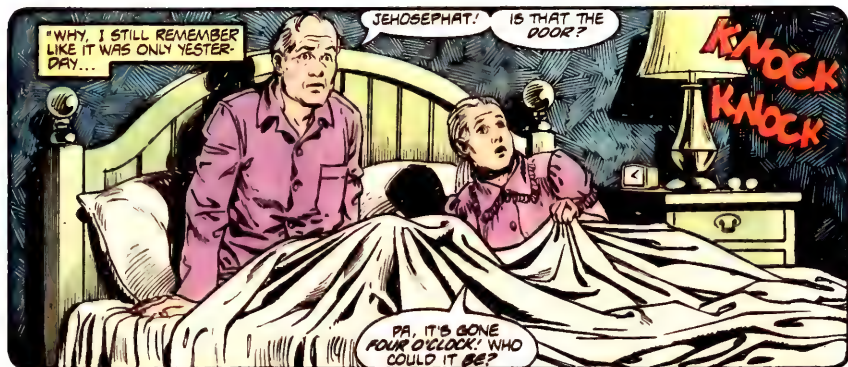


I RECKON IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE WE CAN FORGET WHAT HAPPENED CLARK, ANY OF US.

THERE'S NOT BEEN A DAY GONE BY SINCE IT ALL CAME OUT THAT YOUR PA AND ME HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT...TALKED ABOUT IT.

IT'S A TERRIBLE BURDEN, KNOWING SO MUCH OF IT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF WHAT WE DID...







RETURN TO SMALLVILLE

FEATURING CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER



JOHN BYRNE
WRITER

KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
PENCILLER

ALFREDO ALCALA • CARRIE SPIEGLE • PETRA SCOTSE
INKER LETTERER COLORIST

RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER MIKE CARLIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR

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Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Matthew Ragone, Circulation Director
Patrick Cadden, Controller

"FOR ONE THING, I
KNEW A SECRET."

"PERHAPS THE GREATEST
SECRET IN THE WORLD."

DAILY PLANET

MYSTERIOUS SUPERMAN SAVES SPACE PLANE

"THE SECRET OF
SUPERMAN'S DUAL
IDENTITY."

"I WAS A LONG WAY FROM
SMALLVILLE. THE DAY THE
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD
FOUND OUT THERE WAS A
NEW SUPER-HERO IN THEIR
MIDST."

"I WAS IN
METROPOLIS."

"AROUND ME THE CITY WAS ABUZZ
WITH THE NEWS. EVERYONE WAS
TALKING ABOUT IT."

"BANKERS,
STOCKBROKERS"

"MESSENGERS,
CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS."

"THE COP ON THE
BEAT, THE TEACHER
WITH HER CLASS."

"HOUSEWIVES
CHATTED ABOUT
IT ON STREET
CORNERS."

"SOME WERE
THRILLED."

"SOME WERE
WORRIED."

"SOME EVEN
SOUNDED
JEALOUS."

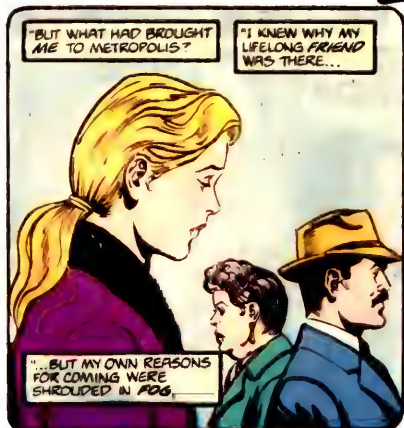
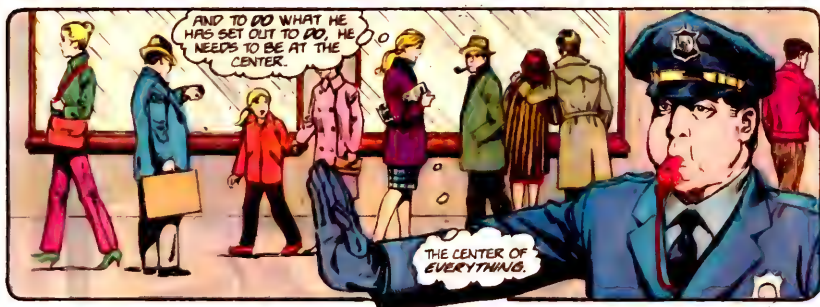
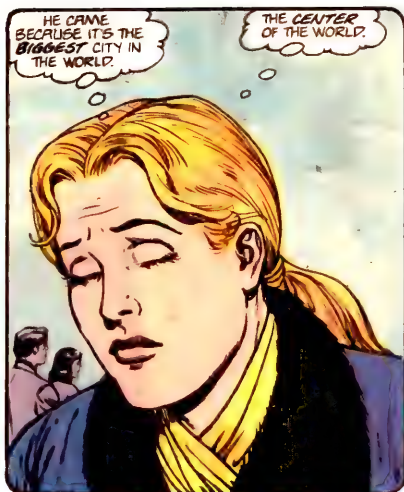
"ELEVEN MILLION PEOPLE,
ALL TALKING ABOUT THE
SAME THING, THE SAME
MAN."

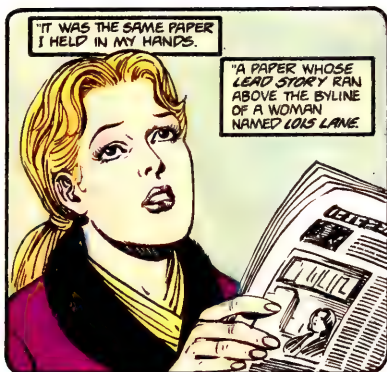
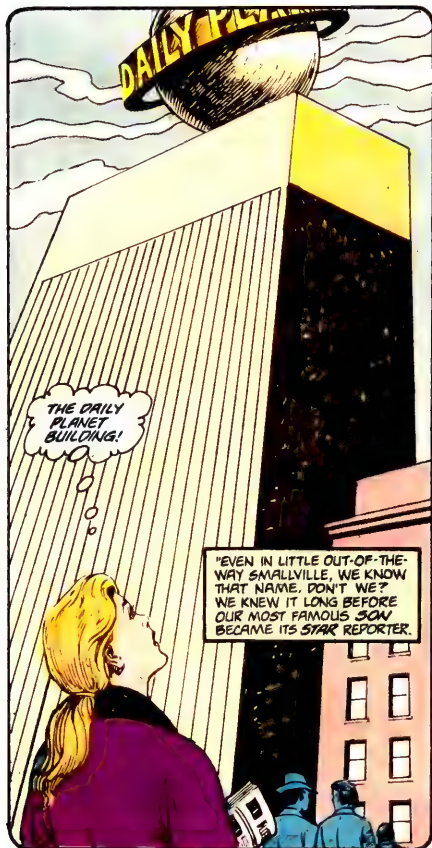
"AND NOT ONE
AMONG THEM
KNEW WHAT I
KNEW."

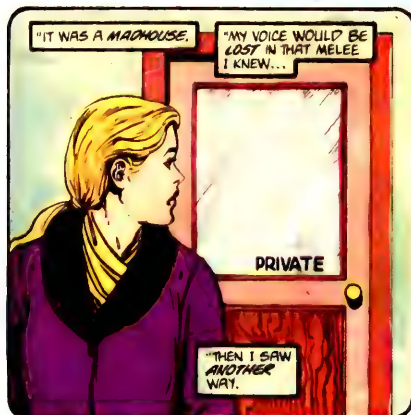
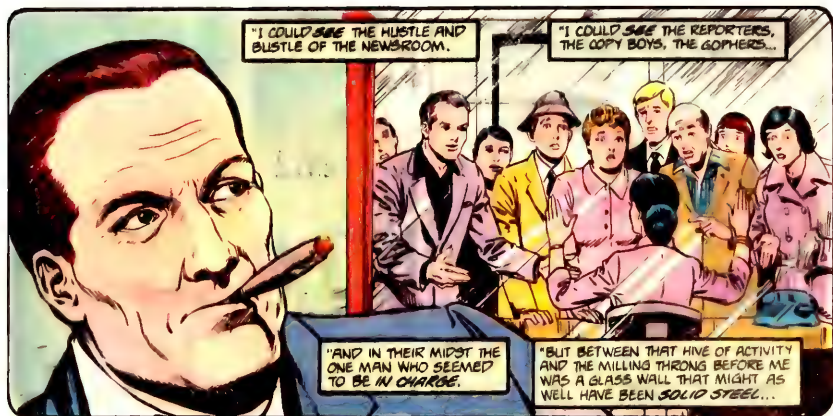
"YET THAT GREAT AND
TERRIBLE KNOWLEDGE
WAS WORTHLESS IN
THAT PLACE, SO
FAR FROM
HOME."

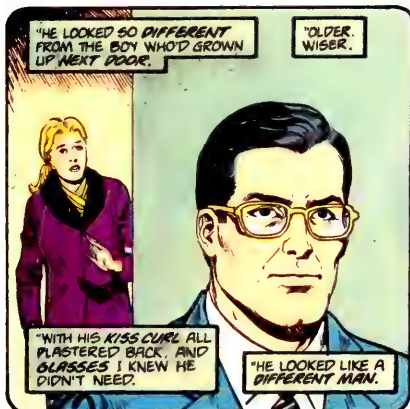
DIRECTORY

HE'S NOT
LISTED...







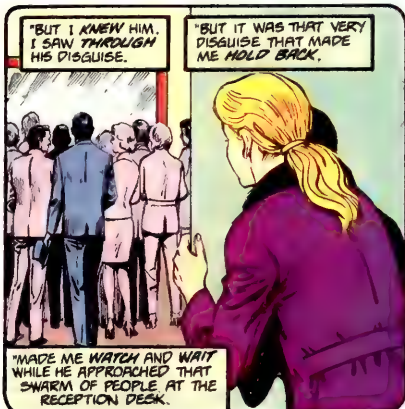


"HE LOOKED SO DIFFERENT FROM THE BOY WHO'D GROWN UP NEXT DOOR."

"OLDER. WISER."

"WITH HIS KISS CURL, ALL PLASTERED BACK, AND GLASSES I KNEW HE DIDN'T NEED."

"HE LOOKED LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN."



"BUT I KNEW HIM. I SAW THROUGH HIS DISGUISE."

"BUT IT WAS THAT VERY DISGUISE THAT MADE ME HOLD BACK."

"MADE ME WATCH AND WAIT WHILE HE APPROACHED THAT SWARM OF PEOPLE AT THE RECEPTION DESK."



"HE WAS POLITE. CLARK WAS ALWAYS POLITE."

"BUT HE MOVED THROUGH THAT CROWD ALMOST AS IF IT WASN'T EVEN THERE."

HELLO, I'M CLARK KENT.

I CALLED THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR MANAGING EDITOR.



OH, YES. I HAVE THAT NAME ON MY LIST.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MR. KENT, BUT MR. WHITE IS SIMPLY SWAMPED RIGHT NOW...

DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SUPERMAN WHO TURNED UP YESTERDAY.



MAY I PENCIL YOU IN FOR ANOTHER APPOINTMENT?

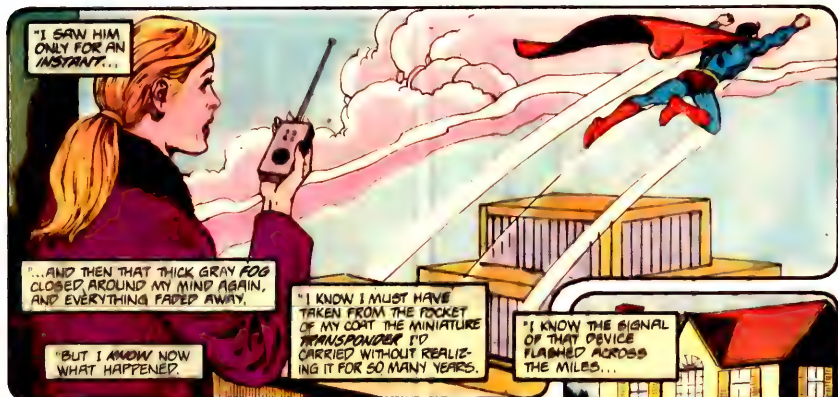
SAY IN... TWO DAYS?

WELL...

THAT'S A BIG DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT IF I HAVE TO WAIT, I HAVE TO WAIT.

THANK YOU FOR BEING SO UNDERSTANDING, MR. KENT.





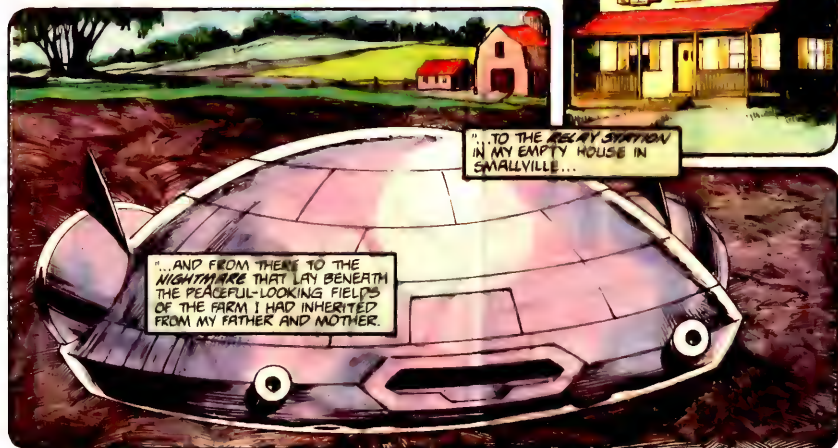
"I SAW HIM ONLY FOR AN INSTANT..."

"...AND THEN THAT THICK GRAY FOG CLOSED AROUND MY MIND AGAIN, AND EVERYTHING FADED AWAY."

"BUT I KNOW NOW WHAT HAPPENED."

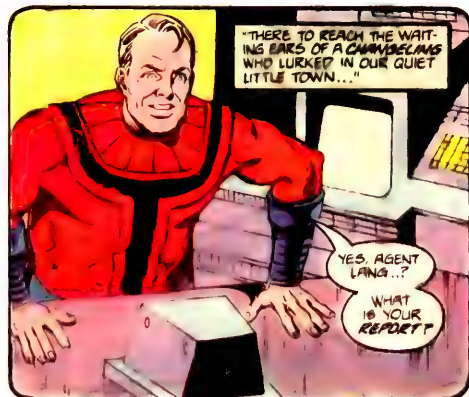
"I KNOW I MUST HAVE TAKEN FROM THE POCKET OF MY COAT THE MINIATURE TRANSMITTER I'D CARRIED WITHOUT REALIZING IT FOR SO MANY YEARS."

"I KNOW THE SIGNAL OF THAT DEVICE FLASHED ACROSS THE MILES..."



"...TO THE RELAY STATION IN MY EMPTY HOUSE IN SMALLVILLE..."

"...AND FROM THERE TO THE NIGHTMARE THAT LAY BENEATH THE PEACEFUL-LOOKING FIELDS OF THE FARM I HAD INHERITED FROM MY FATHER AND MOTHER."



"THERE TO REACH THE WAITING EARS OF A CHAMELEON WHO LURKED IN OUR QUIET LITTLE TOWN..."

"YES, AGENT LANG..."

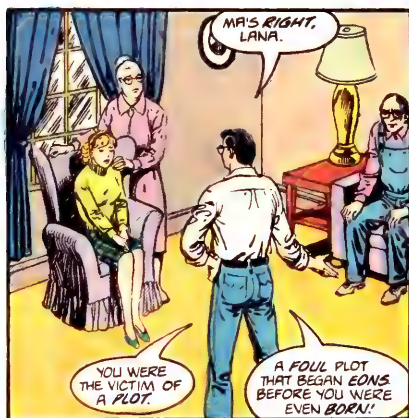
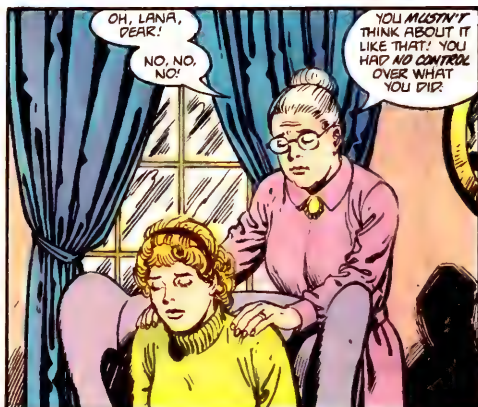
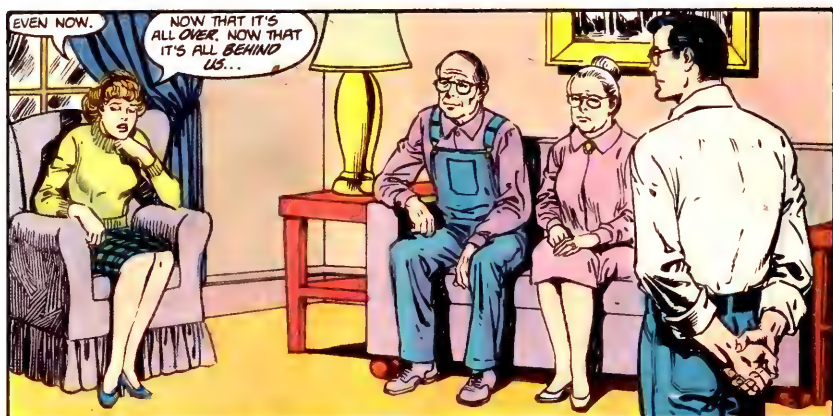
"WHAT IS YOUR REPORT?"



"I HAVE SPOTTED THE TARGET, MASTER."

"HE IS IN METROPOLIS."

"HE IS SUPERMAN!"





THERE WAS NO WAY TO KNOW. NO WAY ANYONE COULD GUESS THAT THEIR MOST FAIR REACHING PLOT LAY HERE, IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA...

"IN THE INNOCENT-SEEMING FORM OF A MAN NAMED WHITNEY."

"THE MANHUNTERS DESTROYED THE REAL WHITNEY, SUBSTITUTING THEIR AGENT."

"AS THE ONE DESIGNATED 'CLAY' IN SMALLVILLE, THE FALSE WHITNEY WAS ABLE TO ALTER EVERY BABY BORN HERE AFTER MY ARRIVAL FROM KRYPTON."

"YOU WERE SIMPLY A VICTIM OF THAT PLOT, LANA."

"THE FIRST VICTIM, IN FACT."

"AND THE MICROSCOPIC DEVICES WHITNEY PLANTED IN YOUR BRAIN CONTROLLED YOU, OVER THE YEARS."

"SUMMONED YOU FROM TIME TO TIME..."

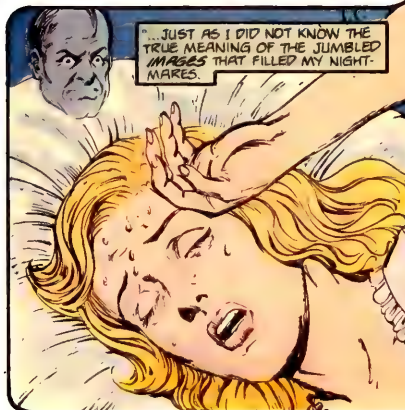
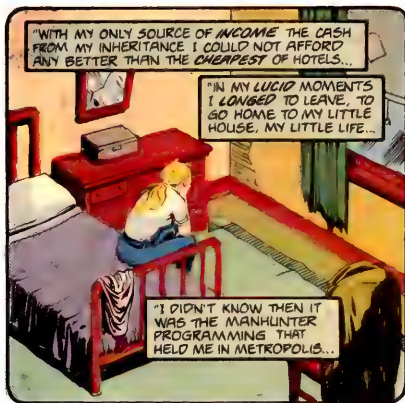
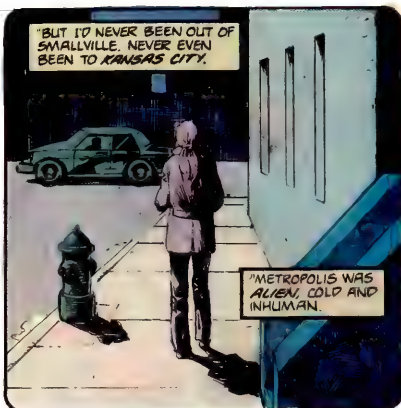
"...TO REPORT TO WHITNEY WHAT YOU HAD OBSERVED."

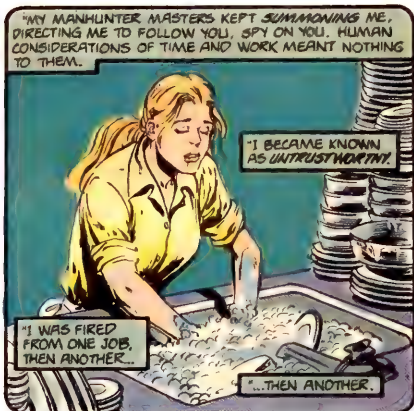
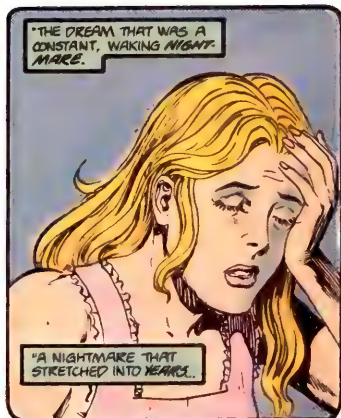
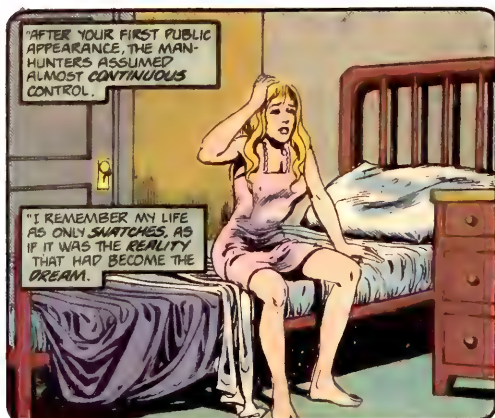
"I HAVE SEEN EVIDENCE OF INCREASING STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE."

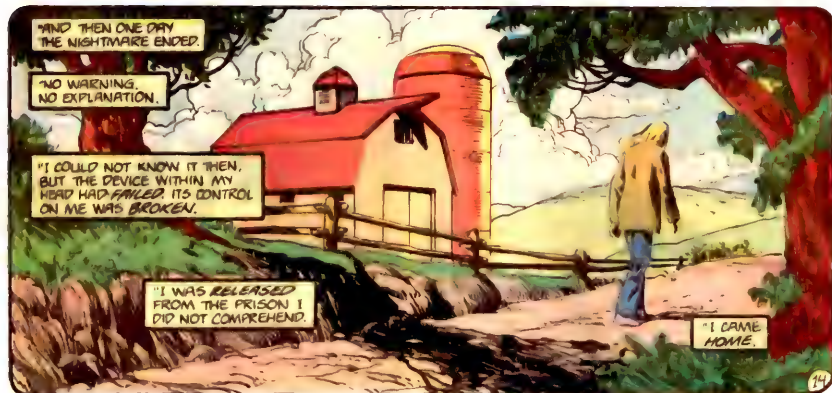
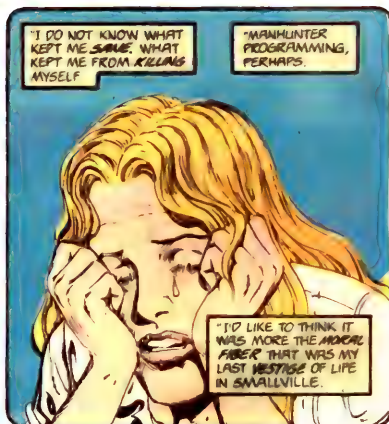
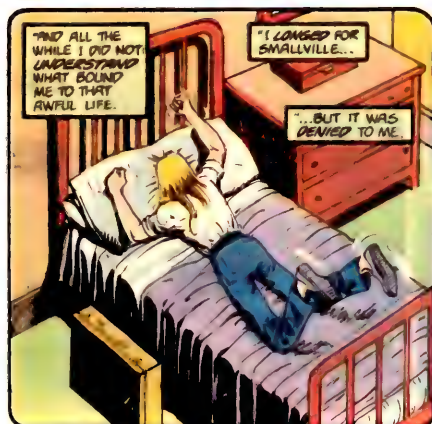
"AT MY BIRTHDAY PARTY LAST WEEK, HE PUT HIS HAND INTO THE CANDLES ON THE CAKE AND WAS NOT BURNED."

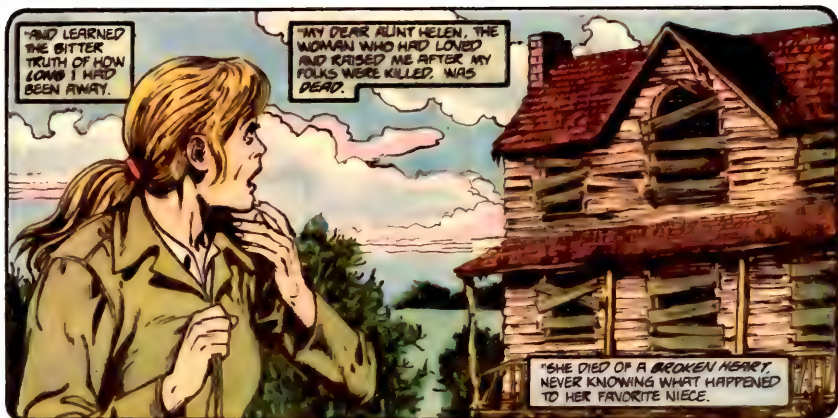
"YOUR ASSIGNMENT WAS TO MONITOR ME, AS I GREW FROM A POWERLESS BABE INTO A YOUNG SUPERMAN..."

"YES, CLARK. I UNDERSTAND THAT NOW."





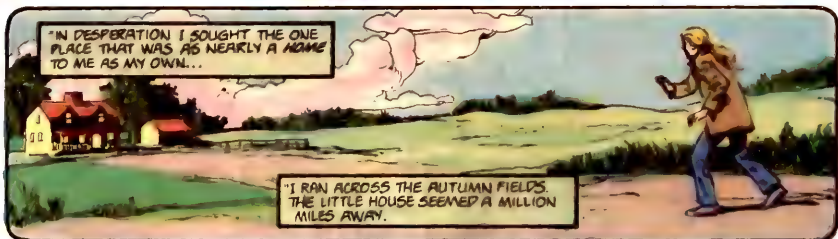




"AND LEARNED THE BITTER TRUTH OF HOW LONG I HAD BEEN AWAY.

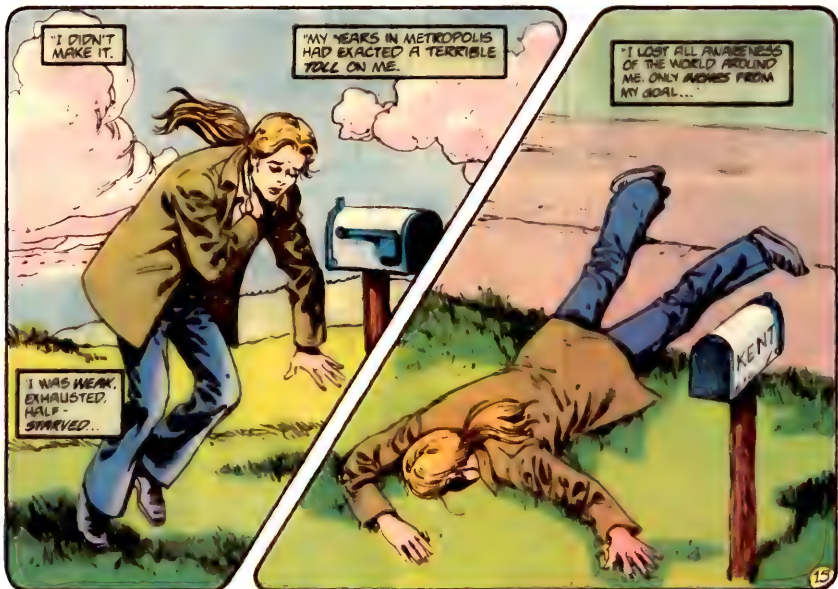
"MY DEAR AUNT HELEN, THE WOMAN WHO HAD LOVED AND RAISED ME AFTER MY FOLKS WERE KILLED, WAS DEAD.

"SHE DIED OF A BROKEN HEART, NEVER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO HER FAVORITE NIECE.



"IN DESPERATION I SOUGHT THE ONE PLACE THAT WAS AS NEARLY A HOME TO ME AS MY OWN...

"I RAN ACROSS THE AUTUMN FIELDS. THE LITTLE HOUSE SEEMED A MILLION MILES AWAY.

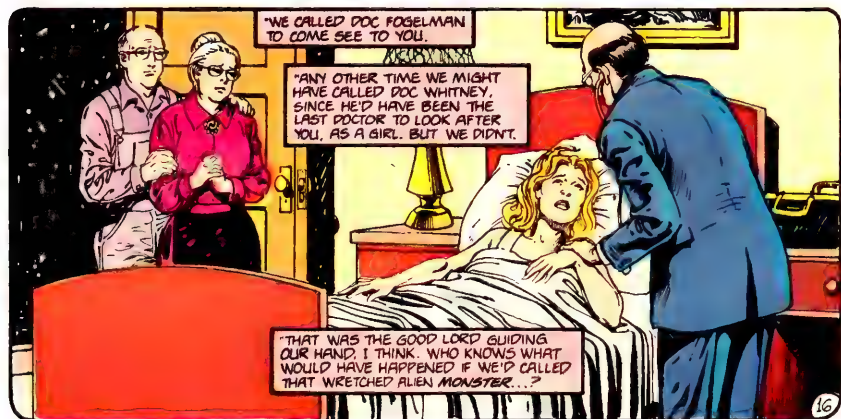
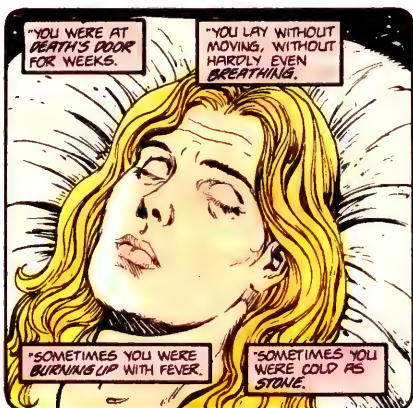
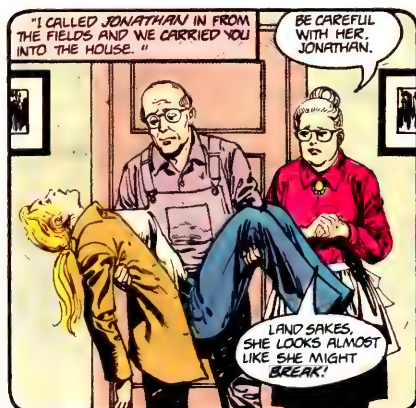
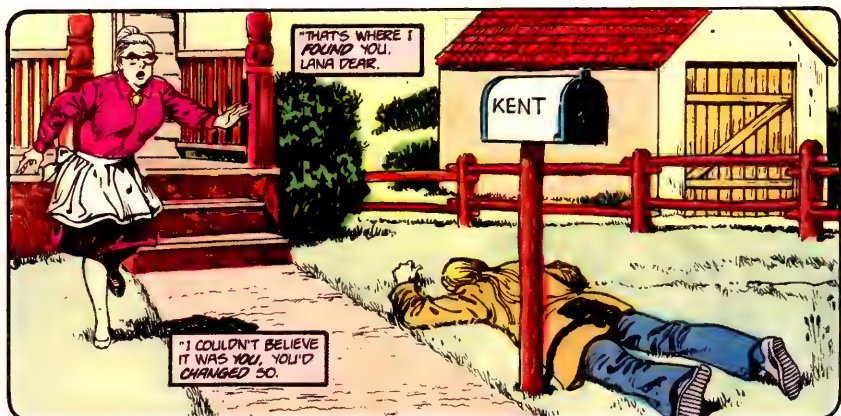


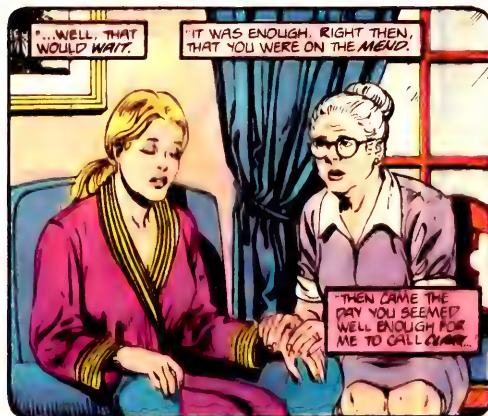
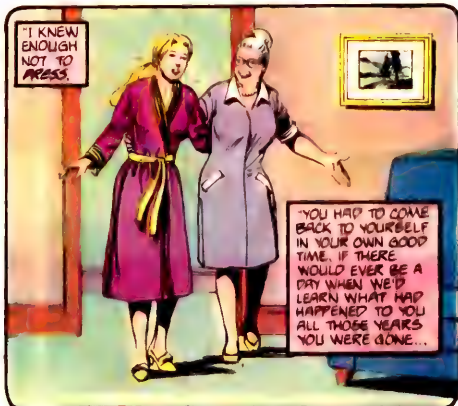
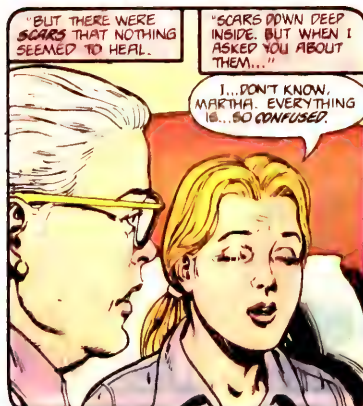
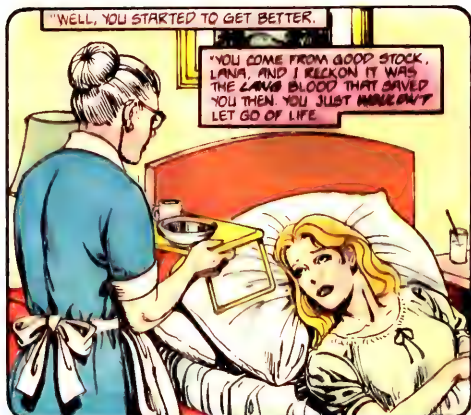
"I DIDN'T MAKE IT.

"MY YEARS IN METROPOLIS HAD EXACTED A TERRIBLE TOLL ON ME.

"I LOST ALL AWARENESS OF THE WORLD AROUND ME. ONLY ACHES FROM MY GEAR...

I WAS WEAK, EXHAUSTED, HALF-STARVED...





"AND WHEN I FELT MYSELF STRONG ENOUGH TO GO BACK AND FACE THE GHOSTS THAT HAUNTED MY OLD HOUSE."

"...YOU CAME WITH ME. AND YOU UNDERSTOOD WHEN I SAID..."

I WANT TO OPEN THE PLACE UP.

I'LL NEVER FEEL LIKE I'M REALLY HOME UNTIL I LIVE HERE AGAIN, IN MY OLD HOUSE, MY OLD ROOM.

THAT'LL TAKE SOME DOIN', LANA HONEY.

I BOARDED THIS PLACE UP MYSELF. AFTER HELEN PASSED ON. SEEMED LIKE THE MOST I COULD DO, TO PROTECT THE OLD PLACE.

WE'LL HELP YOU CLEAN IT UP, OF COURSE. IT'S STOOD EMPTY FOR ALL THOSE YEARS. IT MUST BE A MESS.

THANKS.

BUT...RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE WITH THE MEMORIES FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

YOU DON'T MIND...?

OF COURSE NOT, CHILD.

YOU TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED. WE'LL WAIT SUPPER ON YOU.

THANKS. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

"I STEPPED BACK INTO THAT HOUSE..."

"AND BACK INTO OBLIVION."

"IT'S NOT HARD TO GUESS WHAT HAPPENED THEN, LANA"



"FOR WEEKS YOU'D
BEEN FREE OF THE
MANHUNTER INFLUENCE.

"BUT AT THAT CLOSE RANGE
YOUR CONTROLLER MUST'VE
ACTIVATED AGAIN. MAYBE
NOTHING MORE THAN A
SPASM THROUGH YOUR
NERVOUS SYSTEM.

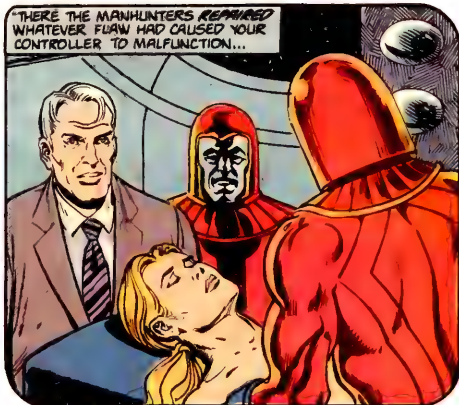


"BUT IT MUST'VE
ALERTED WHITNEY
TO YOUR RETURN...

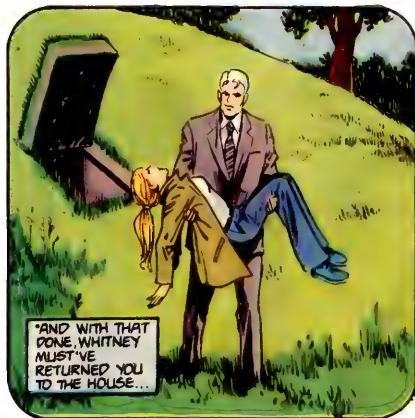
"THIS PART WE CAN ONLY GUESS AT,
BUT BASED ON WHAT FOLLOWED,
IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE CAME
TO YOUR HOUSE...



"HE CARRIED YOUR
UNCONSCIOUS FORM
OUT TO THE MANHUNTER
SHIP HIDDEN UNDER
YOUR PROPERTY.



"THERE THE MANHUNTERS REPAIRED
WHATEVER FLAW HAD CAUSED YOUR
CONTROLLER TO MALFUNCTION...

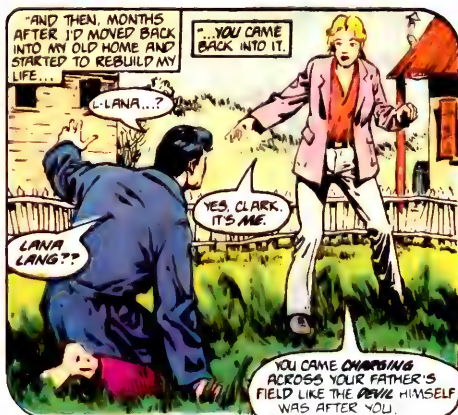
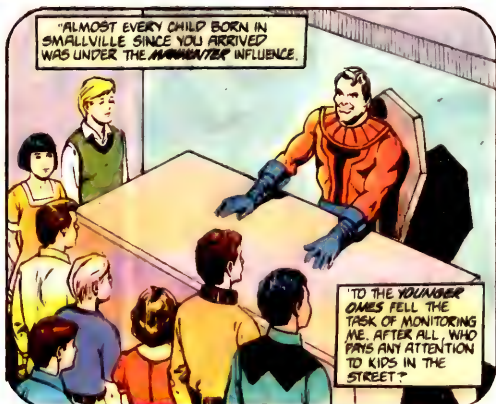
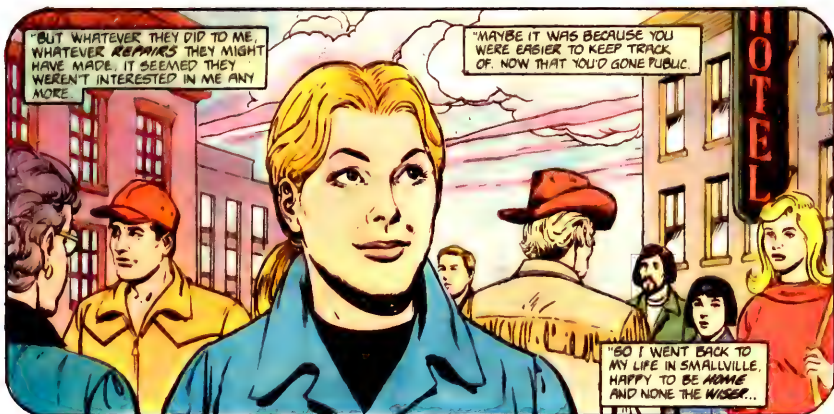


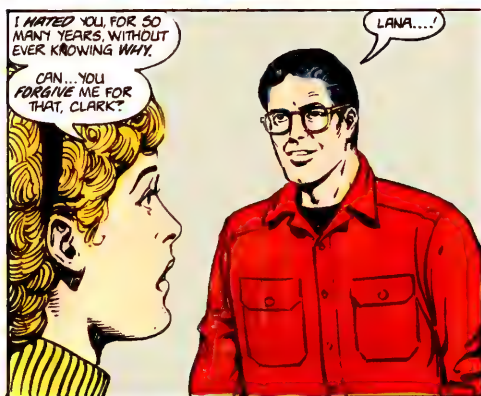
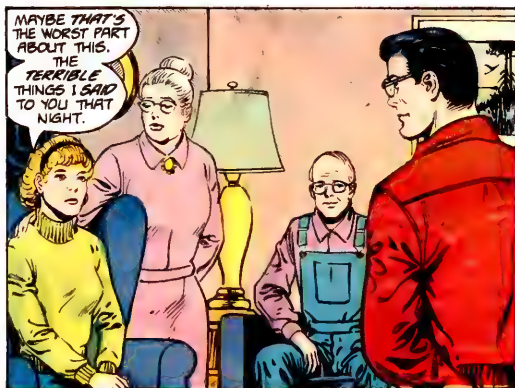
"AND WITH THAT
DONE, WHITNEY
MUST'VE
RETURNED YOU
TO THE HOUSE...

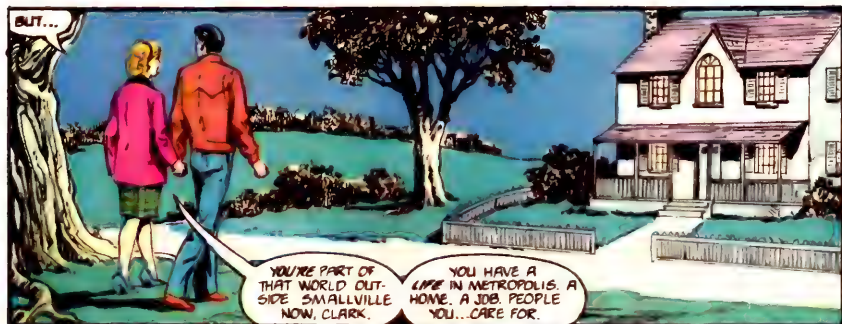
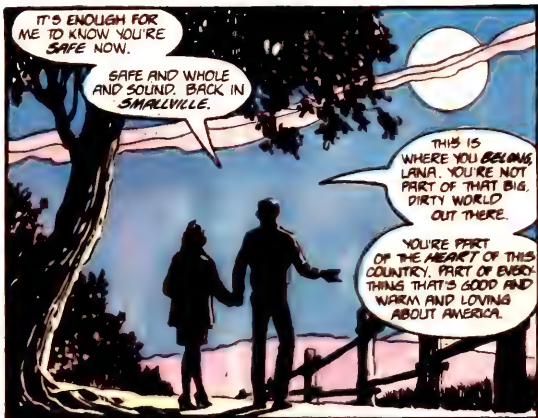


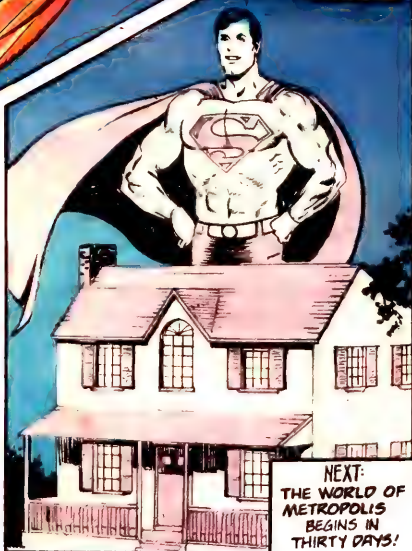
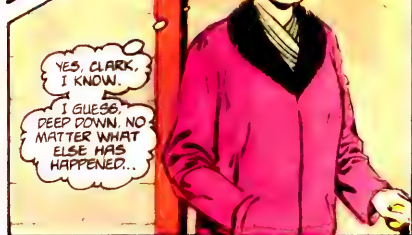
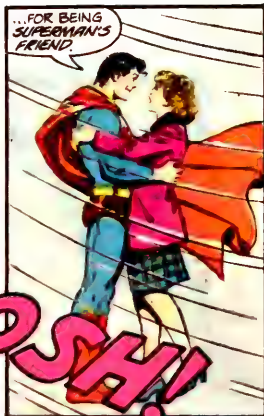
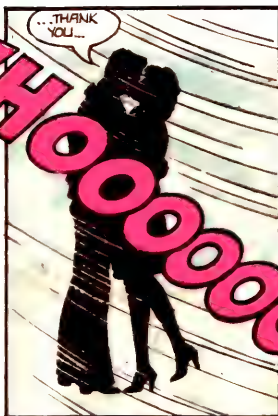
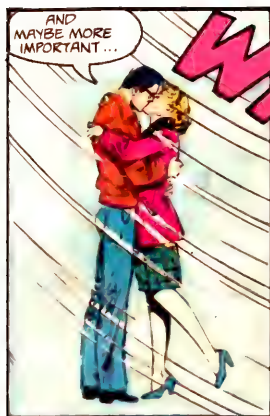
"TO THE VERY
SPOT HE'D TAKEN
YOU FROM."

"THAT SEEMS
TO FIT, CLARK.









MOONBASE ONE...

ANYTHING?
ANYTHING
AT ALL?

ZILCH.

DAMN! THIS IS
ALL WE NEED!
OPERATIONAL
LESS THAN
A MONTH...

... AND WE SCREW
UP THE MAIN
PROJECT WE'RE
OUT HERE TO
TAKE CARE OF!

WELL...
MAYBE WE'RE
NOT DEAD
YET, SALLY.

BUZZ... CAN
YOU DO
ANYTHING
TO BOOST
OUR GAIN?

THEN YOU CAN
START SETTING
UP THE FIRST
CHURCH OF
ME, BUZZY.

TAKE
A
LOOK!

LINC'S WORKING
ON A HYPERWAVE
BYPASS, SKIPPER...
BUT IT WOULD TAKE
A MIRACLE...

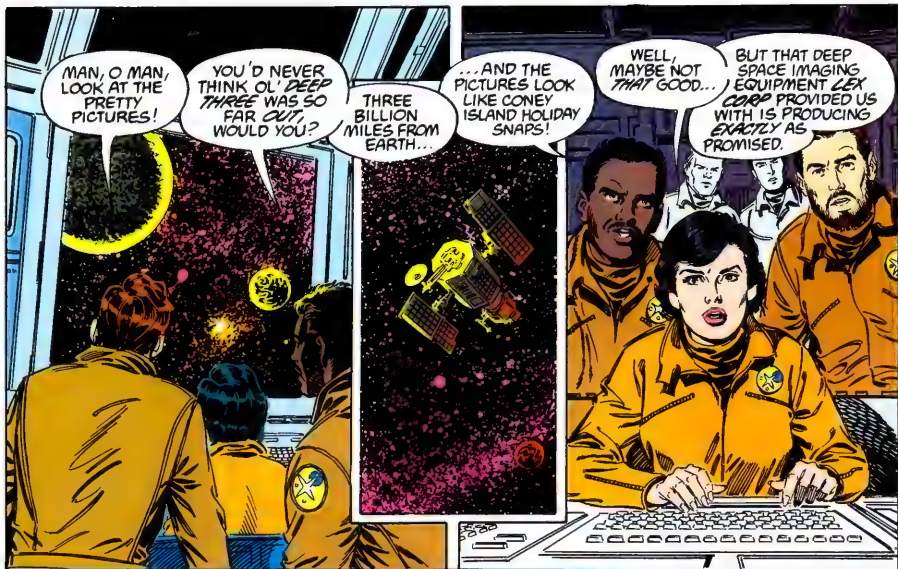
PICTURE!

LINC, I COULD
KISS YOU!

BETTER
NOT, SAL.

WE'LL LOSE OUR
APPROPRIATIONS
IF CONGRESS FINDS
OUT WE'RE GETTING
TOO CHummy
UP HERE.

LET'S HUSTLE UP SOME
NUMBERS, PEOPLE. WE'VE
GOT LOST TIME TO MAKE
UP FOR!



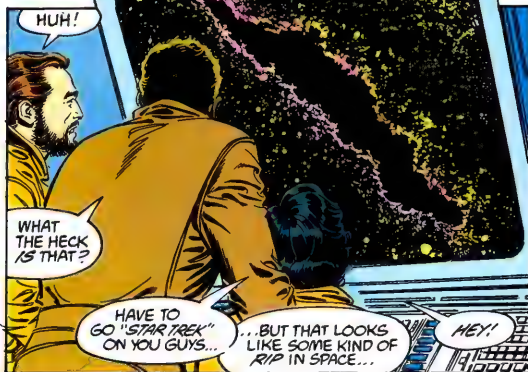
LOOK AT THE DATA!

IT'S COMING IN CLEANER AND FASTER THAN POOR OL' VOYAGER EVER GAVE US.

IS IT?

SAL, WHAT'S THAT AT LEFT CENTER? SOME KIND OF INTERFERENCE?

HANG ON. I'LL ASK FOR MAGNIFICATION WITH THE ~~HYPERWAVE~~ TRANSMITTER IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE A FEW SECONDS...



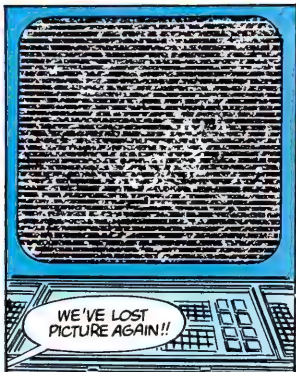
HUH!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

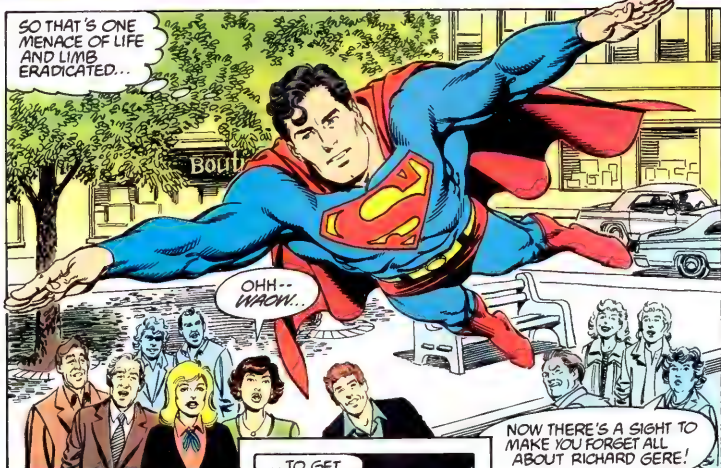
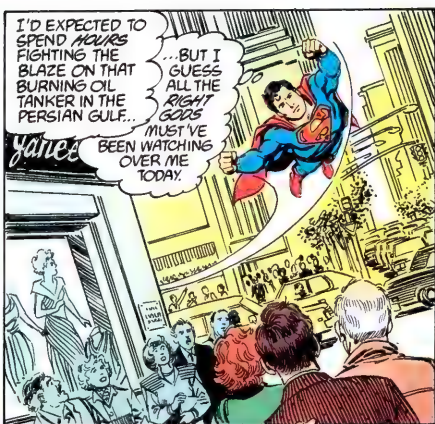
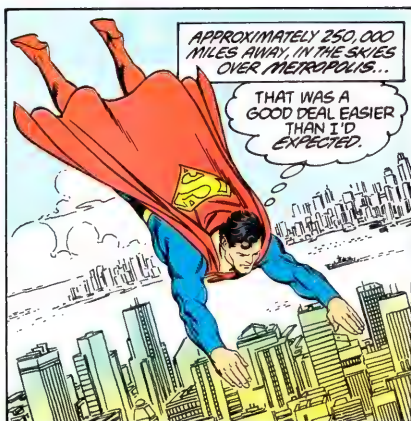
HAVE TO GO "STAR TREK" ON YOU GUYS...

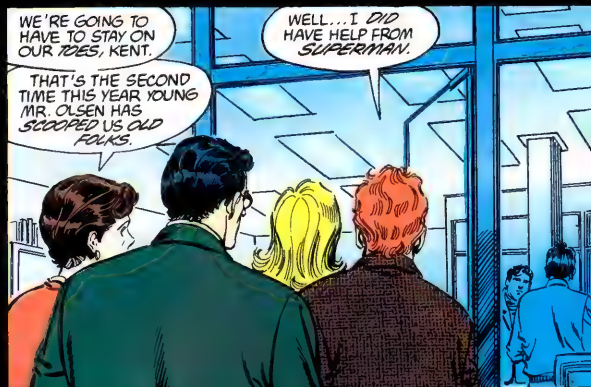
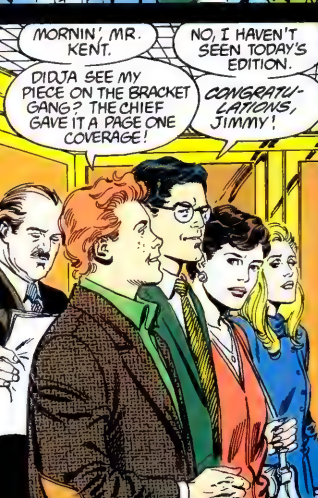
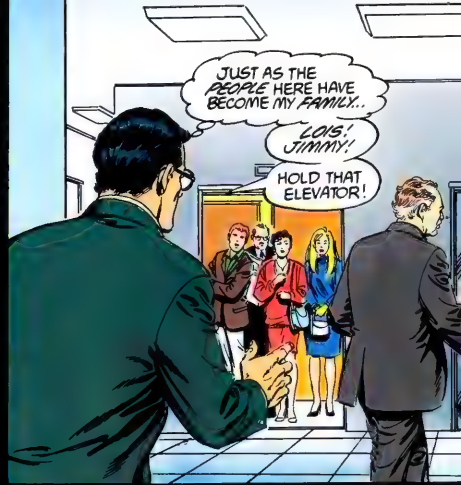
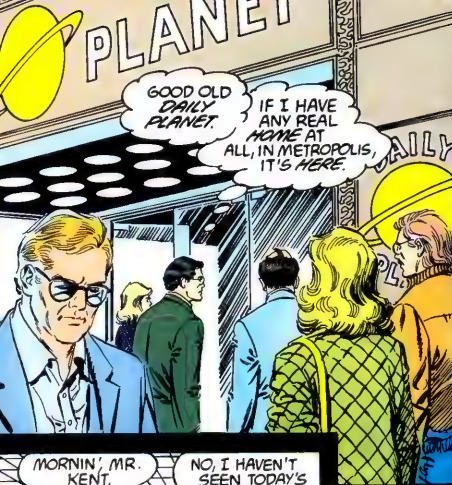
...BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF RIP IN SPACE...

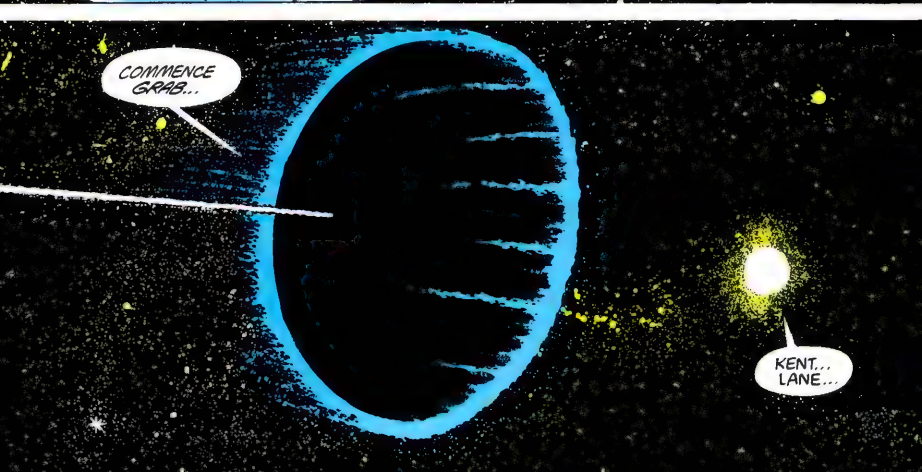
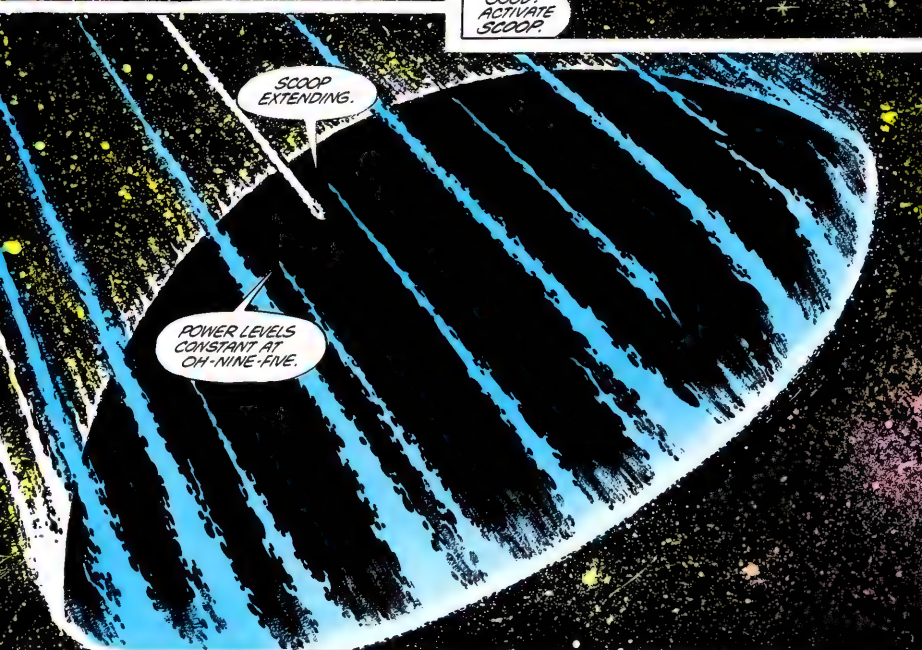
HEY!!

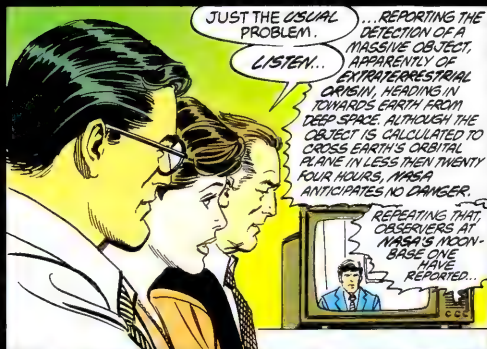


WE'VE LOST PICTURE AGAIN!!









IT'S GETTING SO REAL NEWSMEN CAN'T GET THEIR HANDS ON ANYTHING BEFORE SOME BLOW-DRIED, PANCAKE-FACED PRETTY BOY IS ON THE TUBE SPILLING THE WHOLE THING.



WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, *WHY*? WHY DO THEY GET THERE BEFORE US? WE'VE GOT BETTER PEOPLE, MORE EXPERIENCE.

FACE IT, CHIEF, THEY'VE GOT THE TECHNOLOGY ON THEIR SIDE. WLEX BEATS EVERYBODY TO THE BEST STORIES. MOSTLY BECAUSE THEIR BOSS, LEX LUTHOR CREATES MOST OF THE BEST STORIES.

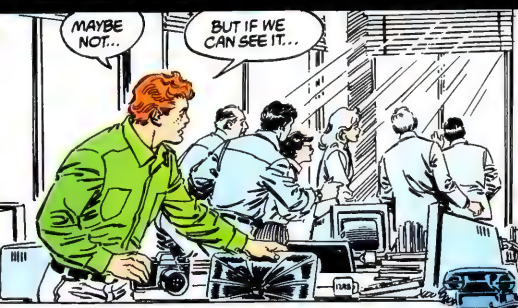
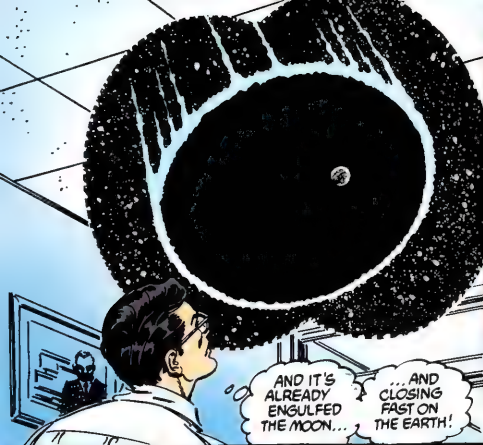
RIGHT, KENT?

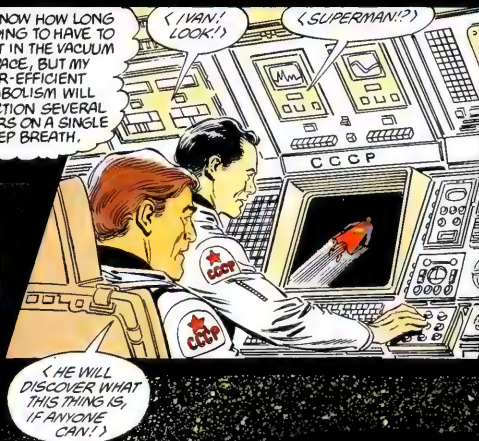
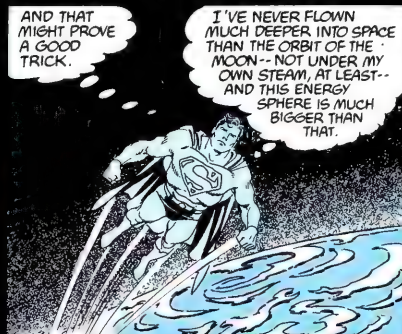
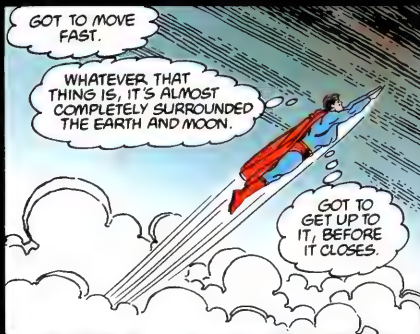


BUT MY COMBINED TELESCOPIC AND INFRARED VISION POWERS SUGGEST OTHERWISE.

WHATEVER THAT THING IS, IT'S PUSHING SOME KIND OF ENERGY BOWL THAT'S BIGGER THAN THE WHOLE EARTH-MOON SYSTEM!

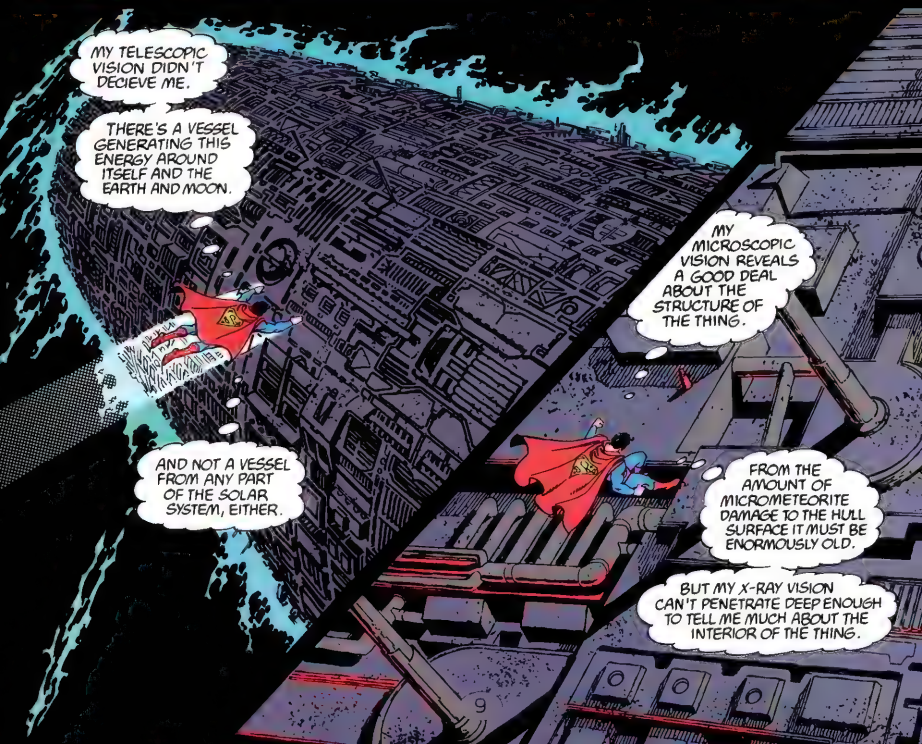
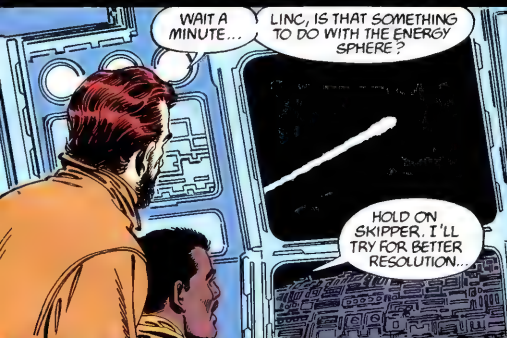
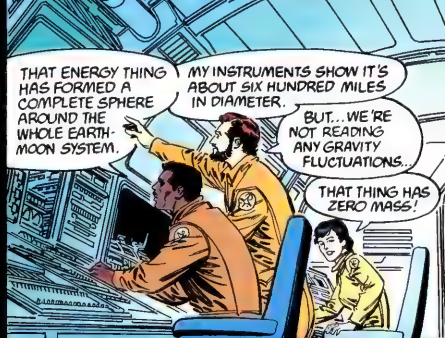
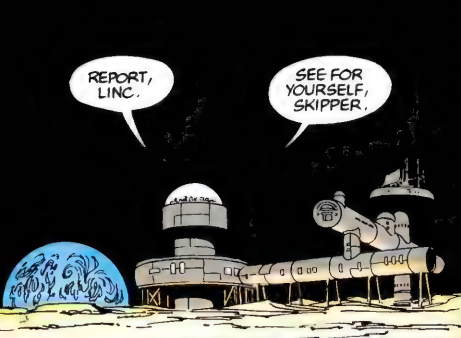






"WHAT A PITY SUCH A MAGNIFICENT HERO DID NOT LAND IN MOTHER RUSSIA WHEN HE CAME TO EARTH!"





THIS
THING IS
HUGE!

WHOEVER
BUILT THIS
MUST'VE HAD TO
CANNIBALIZE ALL
THE NATURAL RESOURCES
OF A WHOLE STAR SYSTEM
TO GET ALL THE
NECESSARY MATERIAL.

IS IT MANNED, I
WONDER? NOBODY
SEEMS TO BE
REACTING TO MY
PRESENCE...

OOOPS...



UHH!

SOME KIND
OF CONCENTRATED
PLASMA BOLTS.

DON'T
SEEM TO BE
HARMING
ME...

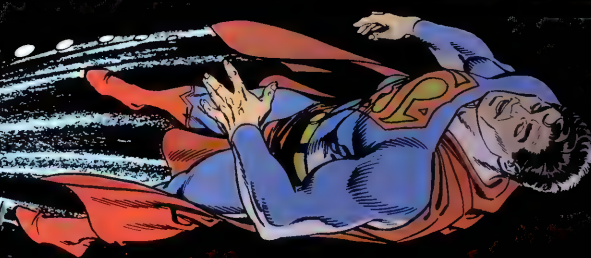
HEY!!

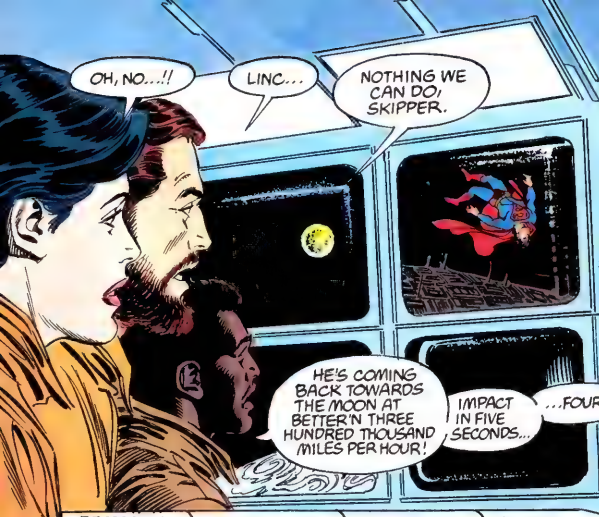
IT'S...
GRABBED
ME!

SPOKE TOO SOON.
THAT TOWER IS
DEFINITELY
REACTING...

SWINGING
ME ROUND IN
A HUGE ARC...

CAN'T
CONTROL
MY FLIGHT...





OH, NO...!!

LINC...

NOTHING WE CAN DO, SKIPPER.

HE'S COMING BACK TOWARDS THE MOON AT BETTER'N THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES PER HOUR!

IMPACT IN FIVE SECONDS...

...FOUR...



"...THREE..."

"...TWO..."

UNNFF!!

BETTER HAUL IT AS FAST AS YOU CAN, GUYS.

THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HIM LEAVING.

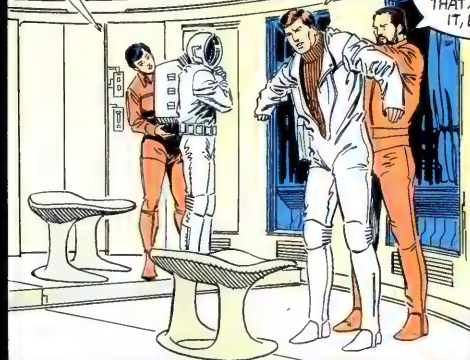
BUT... EVEN IF WE REACH HIM... IF HE'S HURT, WHAT DO WE DO?

HOW DO WE HELP SUPERMAN?

WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN... MAKE THAT /F WE COME TO IT, BUZZY BOY.

"NOW MOVE!"

YOU RECEIVING ME, SKIPPER?



LOUD AND CLEAR. MY TURN TO DRIVE, RIGHT?

BEAR THIRTY DEGREES RIGHT, SKIPPER.

GOT A HOT SPOT ON MY INFRARED SCANNER.

BINGO!

HE MUST'VE MANAGED TO SLOW HIS DESCENT. THE SPEED HE WAS GOIN' HE'D'VE MADE A CRATER BIGGER'N TYCHO IF HE HADN'T!

BUT... IS HE STILL ALIVE?



LET'S HOPE IT'S HIM.

WE CAN'T WASTE TOO MUCH TIME SEARCHING...



"HEY, SKIPPER,
DID YOU JUST
FEEL SOMETHING?"

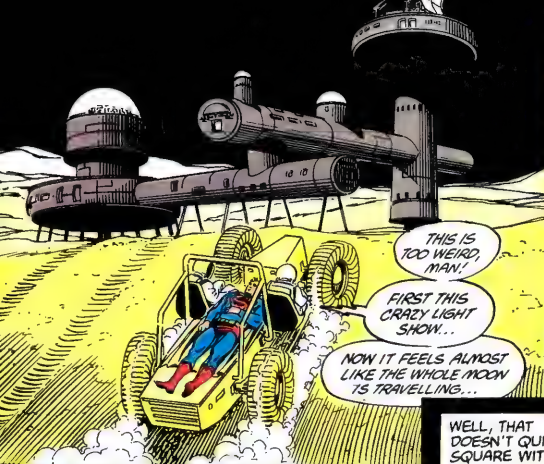
"YEAH... A... TREMOR
IN THE GROUND. ALMOST
LIKE WE WERE... MOVING...?"

ENGINES
FIRING.

STAND BY
TO ACTIVATE
HYPERDRIVE...

LEAVING
STAR SYSTEM
IN TWENTY-
EIGHT SECONDS...

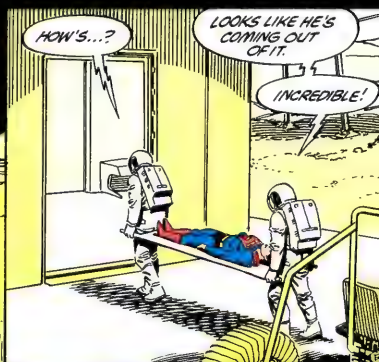




THIS IS TOO WEIRD, MAN!

FIRST THIS CRAZY LIGHT SHOW...

NOW IT FEELS ALMOST LIKE THE WHOLE MOON IS TRAVELLING...



HOW'S...?

LOOKS LIKE HE'S COMING OUT OF IT.

INCREDIBLE!



HOW'RE YOU FEELING, SUPERMAN?

I'VE... BEEN BETTER, THANK YOU.

FORGIVE THE CLICHE, BUT... WHERE AM I?

MOONBASE ONE.

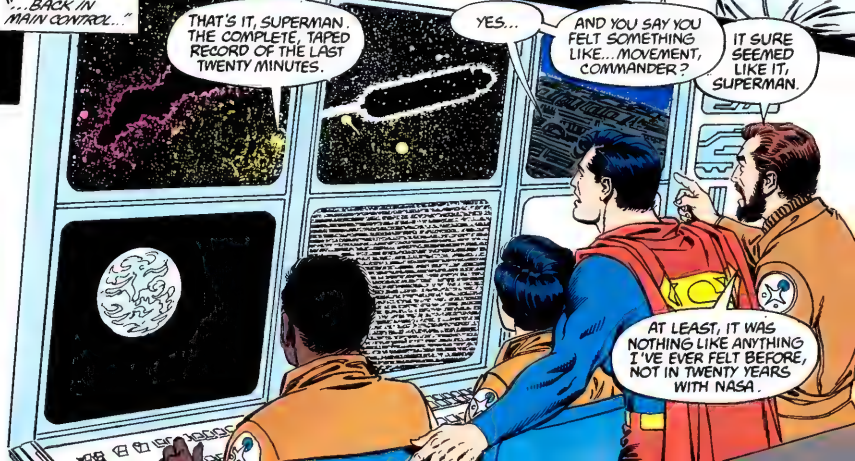


WELL, THAT DOESN'T QUITE SQUARE WITH THE LAST THING I REMEMBER...

HOW DID I GET HERE?

NEAR AS WE CAN TELL, YOU WERE TOSSED, SUPERMAN. BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND MORE AND BETTER ANSWERS.

...BACK IN MAIN CONTROL...



THAT'S IT, SUPERMAN. THE COMPLETE, TAPED RECORD OF THE LAST TWENTY MINUTES.

YES...

AND YOU SAY YOU FELT SOMETHING LIKE... MOVEMENT, COMMANDER?

IT SURE SEEMED LIKE IT, SUPERMAN.

AT LEAST, IT WAS NOTHING LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE, NOT IN TWENTY YEARS WITH NASA.

MMM...

WELL... I DON'T THINK I'M LIKELY TO FIND OUT MUCH ELSE FROM STUDYING THAT TAPE. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO OUT THERE AND TAKE A CLOSE-UP LOOK.



S-SUPERMAN, IS THAT WISE?

AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH...

NO... NO, IT PROBABLY ISN'T THE BRIGHTEST THING I'VE THOUGHT TO DO TODAY. BUT I DON'T HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF CHOICE.

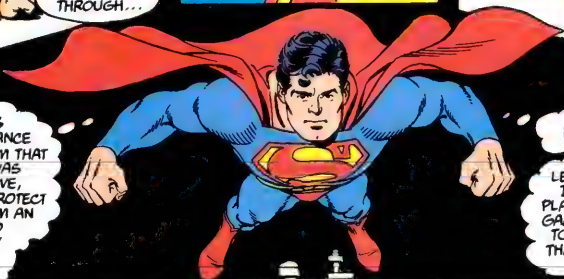


WHATEVER THIS THING IS, IT ISN'T LIKE ANY PHENOMENON I'VE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S DANGEROUS, OR EVEN HARMFUL...



AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE THE MECHANISM THAT ATTACKED ME WAS PURELY DEFENSIVE, OPERATING TO PROTECT THE VESSEL FROM AN UNKNOWN AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ENTITY--ME.



BUT...

LET'S FACE IT, I'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS GAME TOO LONG TO CLING TO THAT PARTICULAR HOPE.

NINETY-NINE TIMES OUT OF A HUNDRED, WHEN I'VE BEEN ATTACKED IN THE PAST, THE ATTACKER MEANT IT.



AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THE LIGHT SHOW MY APPROACH IS GENERATING THIS TIME...

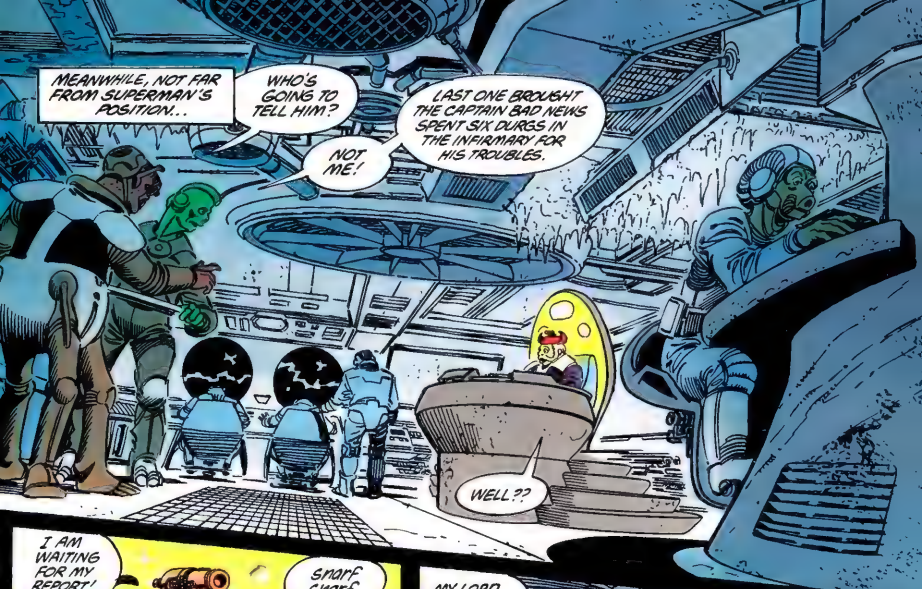


IT... UNSH!



...MEANS IT THIS TIME, TOO!!





MEANWHILE, NOT FAR FROM SUPERMAN'S POSITION...

WHO'S GOING TO TELL HIM?

NOT ME!

LAST ONE BROUGHT THE CAPTAIN BAD NEWS SPENT SIX DUGGS IN THE INFIRMARY FOR HIS TROUBLES.

WELL??



I AM WAITING FOR MY REPORT!

SHARF SHARF

WHERE IS MY REPORT???



MY LORD CAPTAIN...

ER... MY LORD CAPTAIN, I...

OH-HHH...

BAD NEWS AGAIN?



WHAT IS IT, QUEEQ? SHIP DAMAGE? ENGINE FAILURE? LOSS OF FIELD INTEGRITY?

SOMEWHAT WORSE THAN THAT, MY LORD CAPTAIN.

IT SEEMS THE PLANET AND MOON SYSTEM WE HAVE SNARED IS...

WELL... I'M NOT SURE JUST HOW TO PUT THIS, MY LORD...



IT SEEMS THE TWO PLANETS WE'VE SNARED ARE...

...INHABITED.

BY INTELLIGENT LIFE!

AND ONE OF THE LIFE-FORMS SEEMS TO HAVE ... AH... BOARDED US!

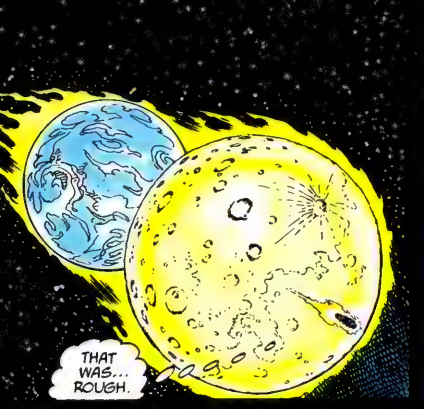


WHAT??

FETCH ME THIS FOOL!

WE'LL HAVE HIM FOR DINNER BEFORE THE WATCH IS DONE!

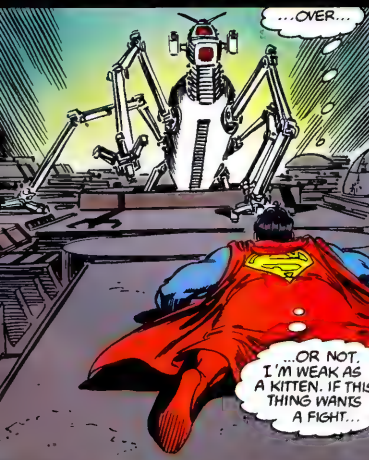
YES, MY LORD CAPTAIN!



THAT WAS...
ROUGH.

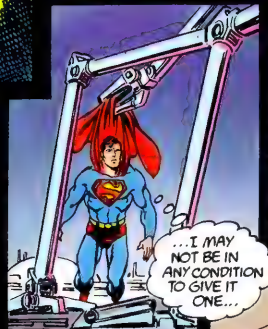
FELT LIKE SOMEBODY
REACHED DOWN MY
THROAT AND TURNED
ME INSIDE OUT. A
COUPLE OF TIMES.

BUT... WE'RE BACK IN
NORMAL SPACE. PROVIDED
I CAN GET SOME AIR
FAIRLY SOON, THE WORST
SEEMS TO BE...

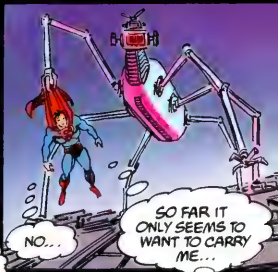


...OVER...

...OR NOT.
I'M WEAK AS
A KITTEN. IF THIS
THING WANTS
A FIGHT...



...I MAY
NOT BE IN
ANY CONDITION
TO GIVE IT
ONE...



NO...

SO FAR IT
ONLY SEEMS TO
WANT TO CARRY
ME...

...TO THIS
HATCH...



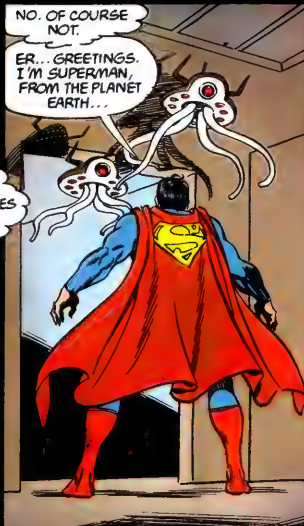
AIR! THERE
MUST BE
SOME KIND OF
FIELD EFFECT
PREVENTING IT
ESCAPING INTO
SPACE.



WHICH MAY NOT BE SO
GREAT IN THE LONG RUN.
IT'S A BREATHEABLE
ATMOSPHERE...

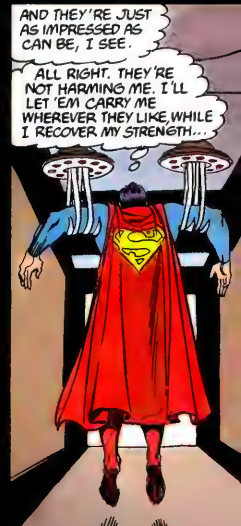
BUT THIS PLACE SMELLS
LIKE THE REPOSITORY OF
ALL LOST SWEATSOCKS
SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!

CAN'T COMPLAIN,
THOUGH, IF I CAN
JUST GET FIVE MINUTES
TO PULL MYSELF
TOGETHER...



NO. OF COURSE
NOT.

ER... GREETINGS.
I'M SUPERMAN,
FROM THE PLANET
EARTH...



AND THEY'RE JUST
AS IMPRESSED AS
CAN BE, I SEE.

ALL RIGHT. THEY'RE
NOT HARMING ME. I'LL
LET 'EM CARRY ME
WHEREVER THEY LIKE, WHILE
I RECOVER MY STRENGTH...



THIS IS THE
ONE WHO
BOARDED
US?

SUPERMAN?

EARTH?



IS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN
SOMETHING?



MAYBE
NOT.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOUR GAME IS,
BUT I MEAN TO PUT
A STOP TO IT.



HE LOOKS NO MORE
IMPRESSIVE THAN THE
OTHER LIFEFORMS QUEED
HAS BEEN SHOWING ME.

IDENTIFY YOUR-
SELF, ALIEN.

AS I TOLD YOUR
LITTLE DROIDS
HERE, I'M CALLED
SUPERMAN. I'M
FROM THE PLANET
YOU'VE STOLEN.
THE PLANET
EARTH.

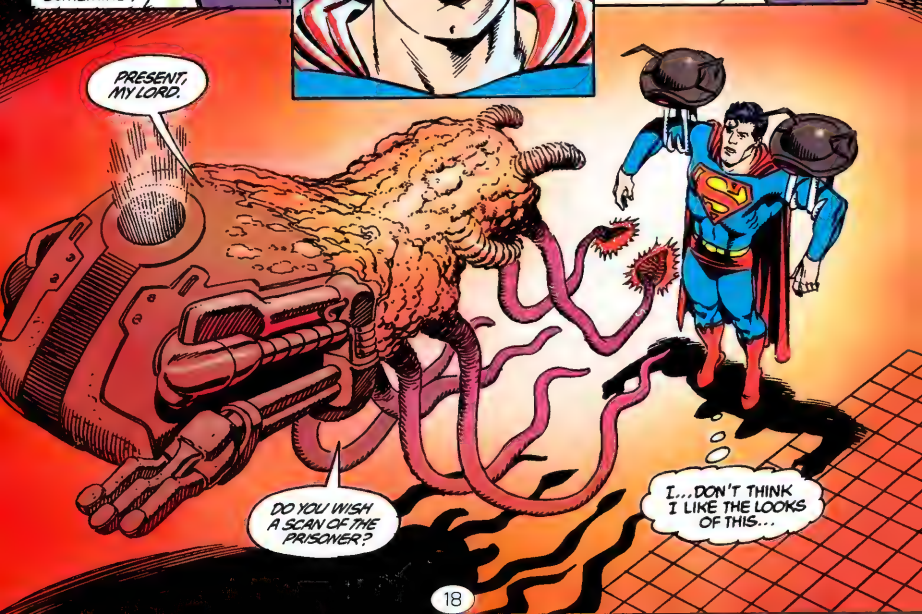
PUT A
STOP...??

THOSE ARE
BOLD WORDS,
SUPERMAN...



STILL...YOU DID
SURVIVE AN UN-
PROTECTED
JOURNEY
THROUGH
HYPERSPACE.

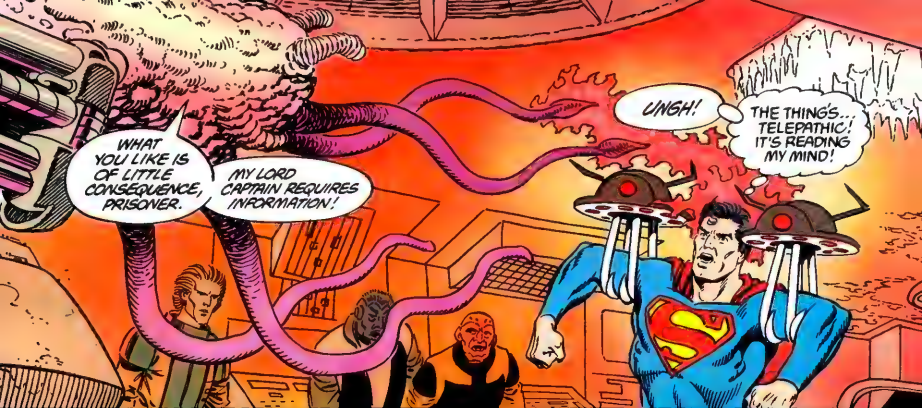
ZIZIK!!



PRESENT,
MY LORD.

DO YOU WISH
A SCAN OF THE
PRISONER?

I...DON'T THINK
I LIKE THE LOOKS
OF THIS...



WHAT YOU LIKE IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE, PRISONER.

MY LORD CAPTAIN REQUIRES INFORMATION!

UNGH!

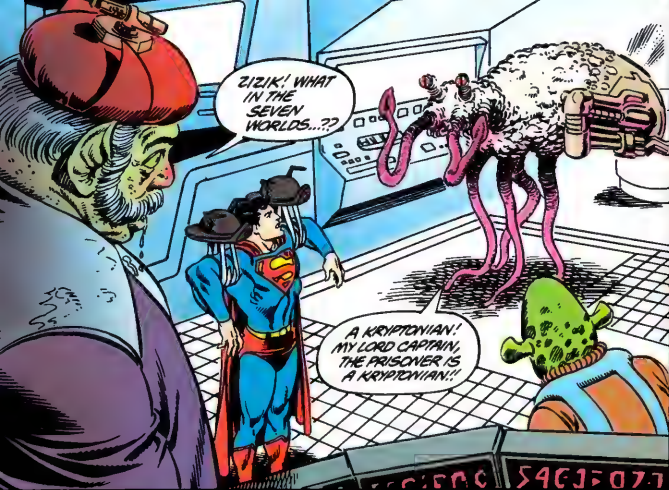
THE THING'S... TELEPATHIC! IT'S READING MY MIND!



MORE THAN THAT, PRISONER.

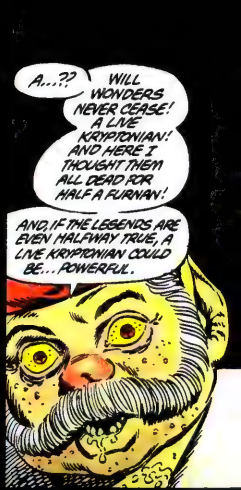
ONE BY ONE I FEEL AWAY THE LAYERS OF YOUR MIND, UNTIL I SEE ALL THE MOMENTS OF YOUR LIFE LAID OUT BEFORE ME...

EEEEEEEEEEEE!!!



ZIZIK! WHAT
IN THE
SEVEN
WORLDS...??

A KRYPTONIAN!
MY LORD CAPTAIN,
THE PRISONER IS
A KRYPTONIAN!!



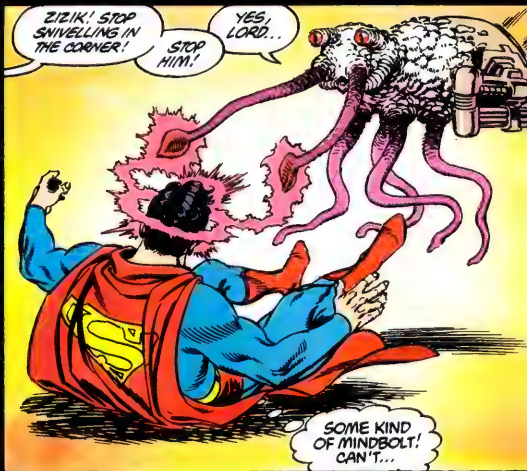
A...?? WILL
WONDERS
NEVER CEASE!
A LIVE
KRYPTONIAN!
AND HERE I
THOUGHT THEM
ALL DEAD FOR
HALF A FURNAN!

AND, IF THE LEGENDS ARE
EVEN HALFWAY TRUE, A
LIVE KRYPTONIAN COULD
BE... POWERFUL.



AND THAT'S
A CUE IF EVER
I HEARD ONE.

OKAY,
CAPTAIN. I'VE
RECOVERED ENOUGH
TO START PLAYING
THIS GAME BY MY
OWN RULES...



ZIZIK! STOP
SNIVELLING IN
THE CORNER!

YES, LORD...
STOP
HIM!

SOME KIND
OF MINDBOLT!
CAN'T...



NO POINT RESISTING,
SUPERMAN.

ZIZIK HAS A SPECIAL TALENT FOR
DEALING
WITH ROUNDY
FOLK LIKE YOU.

BUT, NOW
WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO WITH
YOU? I SHOULD HAVE
YOU ROBBED OFF THE
SHIP...

...BUT IT OCCURS
TO ME THERE MIGHT
BE SOME VALUE IN
A LIVE KRYPTONIAN.



TAKE HIM
TO A HOLDING
CELL...

AND
DON'T DAMAGE
HIM TOO MUCH!



NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

GOTTA BE THE BIGGEST STORY SINCE SUPERMAN CAME T' TOWN.

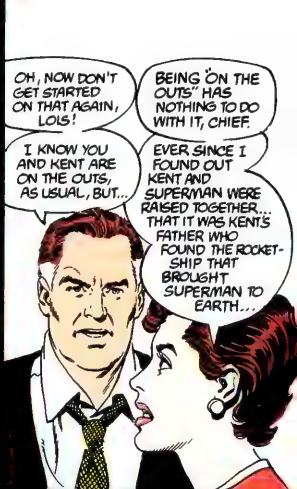
AN IT'S HAPPENIN' RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR WINDOW!



RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR WINDOW, AND ALL WE CAN DO IS STAND AROUND LIKE A BUNCH OF LUMPS!

MM...

MAYBE THAT'S NOT WHAT ALL OF US ARE DOING. WHERE'S CLARK KENT?



OH, NOW DON'T GET STARTED ON THAT AGAIN, LOIS!

I KNOW YOU AND KENT ARE ON THE OUTS, AS USUAL, BUT...

BEING 'ON THE OUTS' HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, CHIEF.

EVER SINCE I FOUND OUT KENT AND SUPERMAN WERE RAISED TOGETHER... THAT IT WAS KENT'S FATHER WHO FOUND THE ROCKET-SHIP THAT BROUGHT SUPERMAN TO EARTH...



I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU'VE BEEN TICKED OFF AT BOTH OF THEM, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ANY SUPERMAN EXCLUSIVES YOU WON AWAY FROM KENT, THEY MUST'VE ACTUALLY LET YOU WIN...



YES, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING THAT ALMOST STARTED TO COME TOGETHER IN MY HEAD WHEN I VISITED KENT'S HOMETOWN, SMALLVILLE...



HAVE YOU NOTICED, CHIEF, THE WAY SUPERMAN AND CLARK KENT ARE NEVER AROUND AT THE SAME TIME?

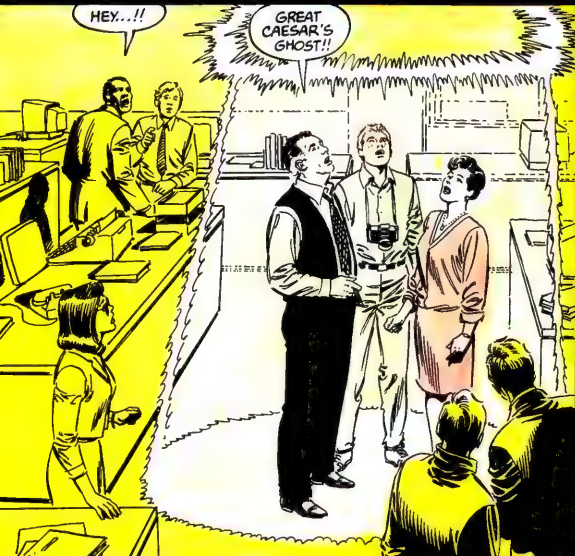
I MEAN, KENT ALWAYS HAS A GOOD REASON FOR HAVING BEEN SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN SUPERMAN TURNED UP...



BUT HE'S ALWAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE...

LOIS...

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING...



HEY...!!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!!



THEY'RE... GONE!!



TELEPORTATION
CYCLE COMPLETE.

BUT ARE THEY THE RIGHT
ONES, MY LORD CAPTAIN? TO
ACHIEVE SUCH PRECISION OF
PICKUP, OUT OF SO MANY
LIFEFORMS...



OF COURSE
THEY ARE THE
RIGHT ONES,
QUEED.

THESE
THREE
ARE
SUPERMAN'S
CLOSEST FRIENDS!
AND NOW WE HAVE
THEM!



GOOD
LORD!

ALIENS! DOZENS
OF THEM!

WOW!

THIS IS GONNA
BEAT MY BRACKET
GANG STORY
ALL HOLLOW!



THE PRETTY BOY IN
THE HAT SEEMS TO
BE BIG KAHUNA
AROUND HERE.

YOU WANT TO
START EXPLAINING
YOURSELF, FELLA?
WHERE ARE WE?
WHAT'S...

I WILL ASK THE
QUESTIONS, HUMAN FEMALE,
IF ANY ARE TO BE
ASKED.



YOU WILL KEEP
THE PLACE OF
ALL FEMALES,
IN SILENCE!!

NOW SEE HERE! I'M PERRY WHITE,
MANAGING EDITOR OF THE DAILY
PLANET! I DEMAND TO KNOW WHO
YOU ARE, AND HOW AND WHY YOU'VE
BROUGHT US HERE.

AHH!

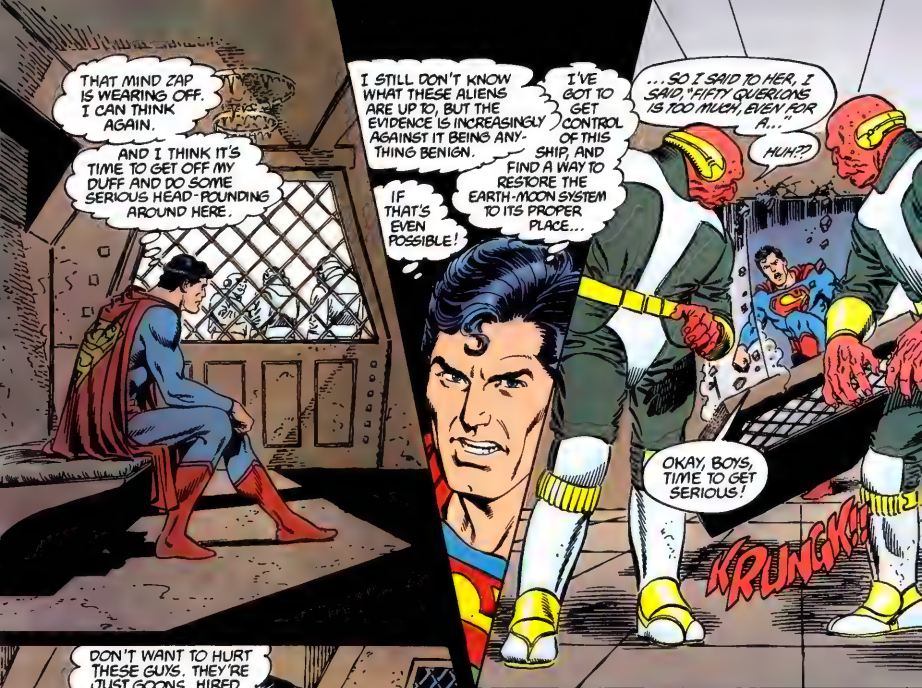
ONE WITH A
POSITION OF SOME
AUTHORITY!! GOOD.
GOOD. YOU, AT
LEAST, I AM ABLE
TO ADDRESS
ALMOST AS AN
EQUAL.



YOU I CAN TELL THAT
THIS SHIP IS A GATHERER.
LAST OF A MIGHTY FLEET
WHICH AT ONE TIME PLIED
THE SPACEWAYS IN SEARCH
OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO
REPLACE THE ONES LONG
SINCE EXHAUSTED ON THE
HOMEWORLD OF THE
GREAT BUILDERS.

THEY ARE GONE
NOW, BUT THIS SHIP
SURVIVES, AND UNDER
MY COMMAND STILL
SERVICES VERY
SPECIAL CLIENTS.

CLIENTS WHO
GRAVE THE MANY
NATURAL RESOURCES
OF YOUR OWN SMALL
AND HIGHLY INSIG-
NIFICANT PLANET!



THAT MIND ZAP IS WEARING OFF. I CAN THINK AGAIN.

AND I THINK IT'S TIME TO GET OFF MY DUFF AND DO SOME SERIOUS HEAD-POUNDING AROUND HERE.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE ALIENS ARE UP TO, BUT THE EVIDENCE IS INCREASINGLY AGAINST IT BEING ANYTHING BENIGN.

IF THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE!

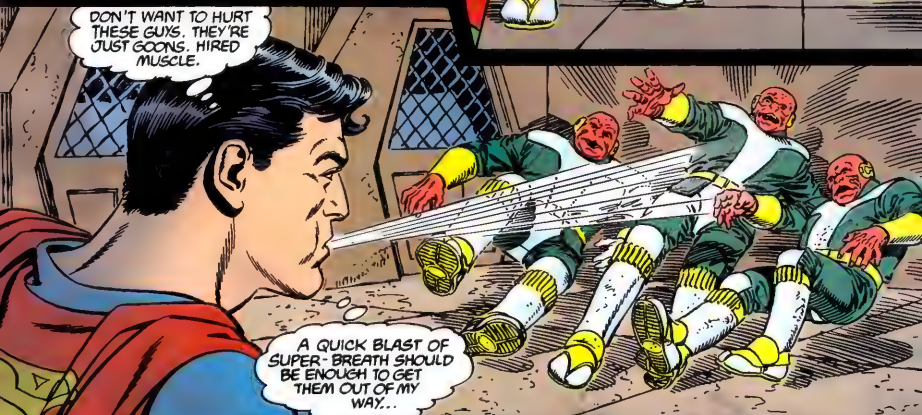
I'VE GOT TO GET CONTROL OF THIS SHIP, AND FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THE EARTH-MOON SYSTEM TO ITS PROPER PLACE...

... SO I SAID TO HER, I SAID, "FIFTY QUESTIONS IS TOO MUCH, EVEN FOR A..."

HUH??

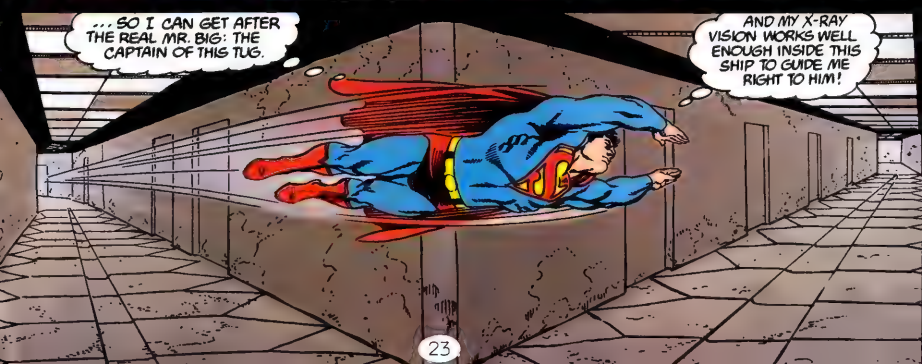
OKAY, BOYS, TIME TO GET SERIOUS!

KRUNGK!



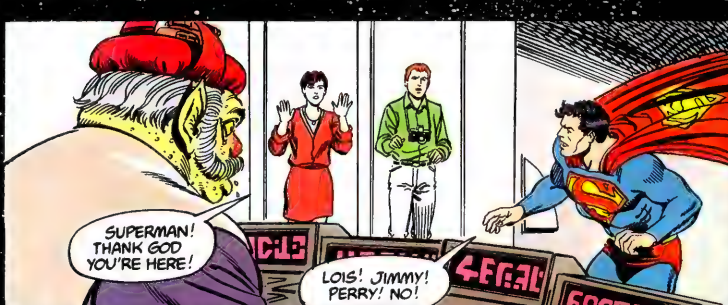
DON'T WANT TO HURT THESE GUYS. THEY'RE JUST GOONS. HIRED MUSCLE.

A QUICK BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GET THEM OUT OF MY WAY...



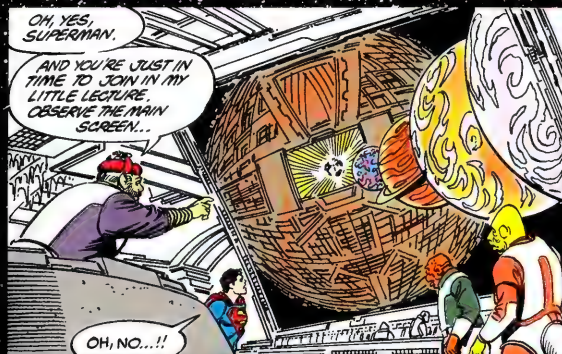
... SO I CAN GET AFTER THE REAL MR. BIG: THE CAPTAIN OF THIS TUG.

AND MY X-RAY VISION WORKS WELL ENOUGH INSIDE THIS SHIP TO GUIDE ME RIGHT TO HIM!



SUPERMAN!
THANK GOD
YOU'RE HERE!

LOIS! JIMMY!
PERRY! NO!

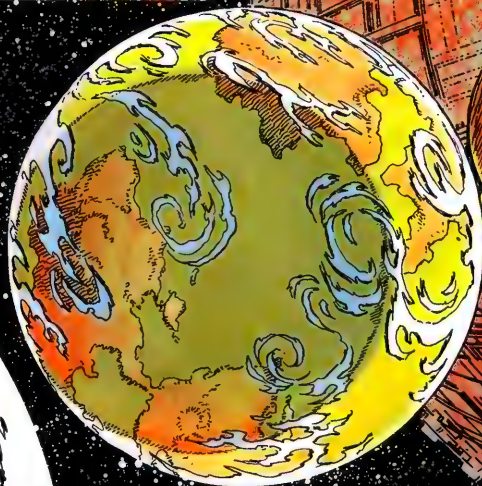
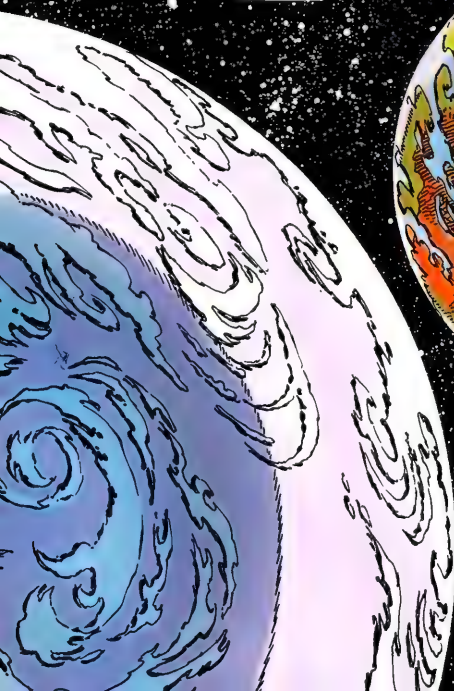


OH, YES,
SUPERMAN.

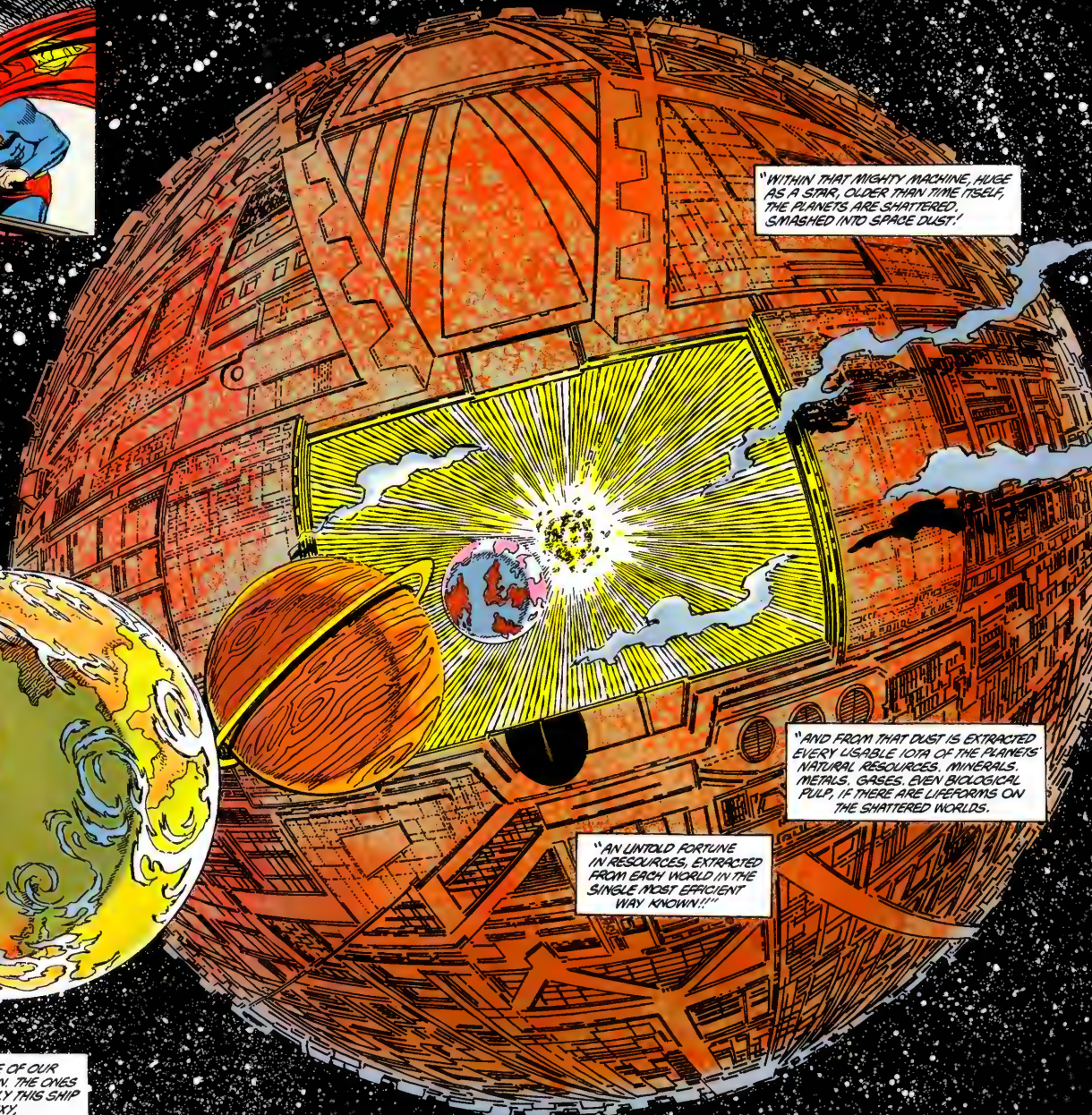
AND YOU'RE JUST IN
TIME TO JOIN IN MY
LITTLE LECTURE.
OBSERVE THE MAIN
SCREEN...

OH, NO...!!

"OH, YES!



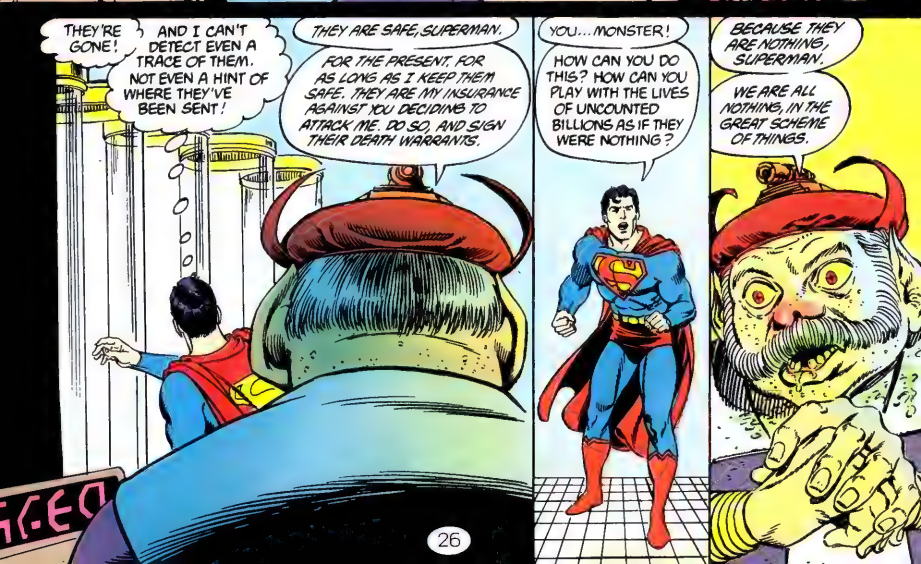
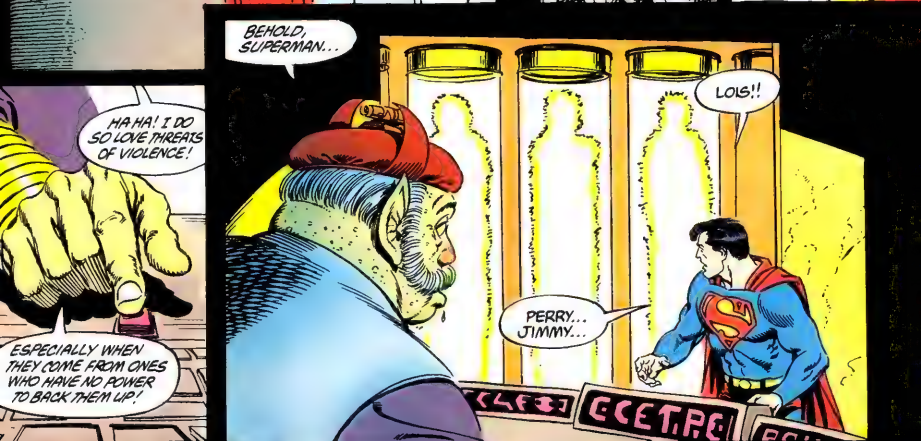
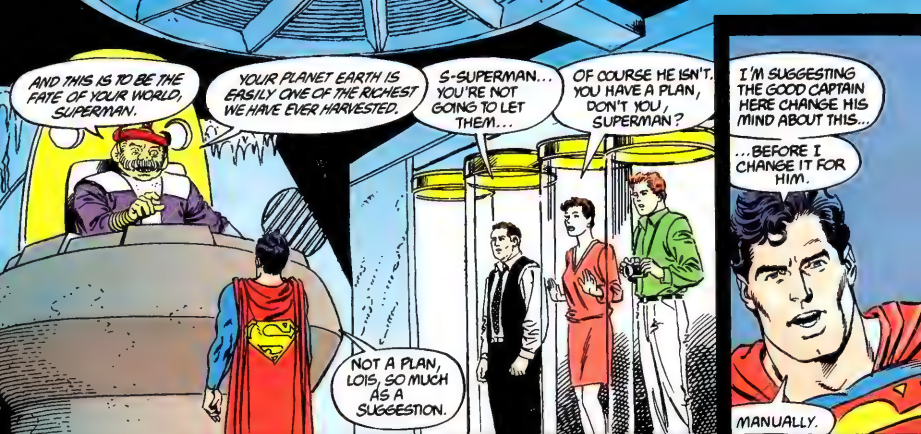
"THAT IS THE HOME OF OUR
CLIENTS, SUPERMAN. THE ONES
WHO HIRED US TO FLY THIS SHIP
AROUND THE GALAXY,
PROCURING PLANETS FOR
THEIR CRACKING STATION.

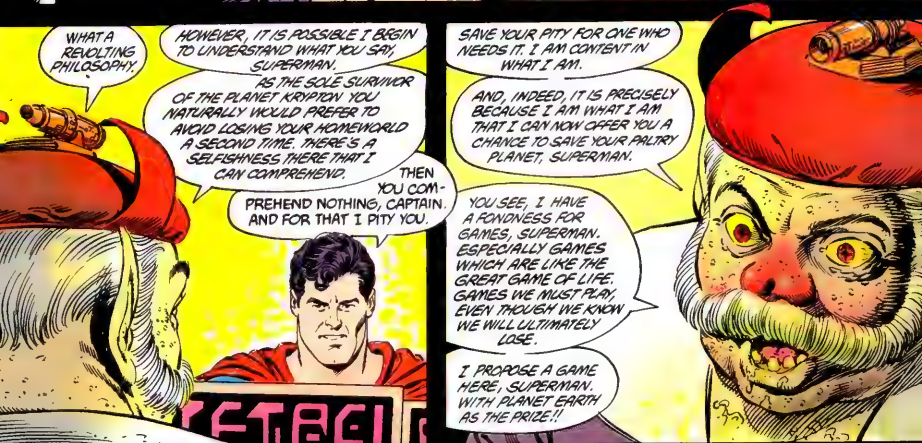
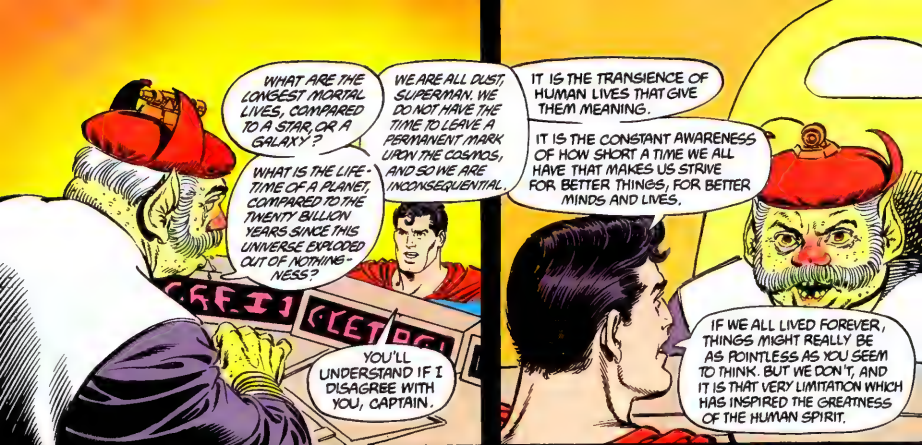


"WITHIN THAT MIGHTY MACHINE, HUGE
AS A STAR, OLDER THAN TIME ITSELF,
THE PLANETS ARE SHATTERED,
SMASHED INTO SPACE DUST!

"AND FROM THAT DUST IS EXTRACTED
EVERY USABLE iota OF THE PLANETS'
NATURAL RESOURCES. MINERALS.
METALS. GASES. EVEN BIOLOGICAL
PULP, IF THERE ARE LIFEFORMS ON
THE SHATTERED WORLDS.

"AN UNLIMITED FORTUNE
IN RESOURCES, EXTRACTED
FROM EACH WORLD IN THE
SINGLE MOST EFFICIENT
WAY KNOWN!!"



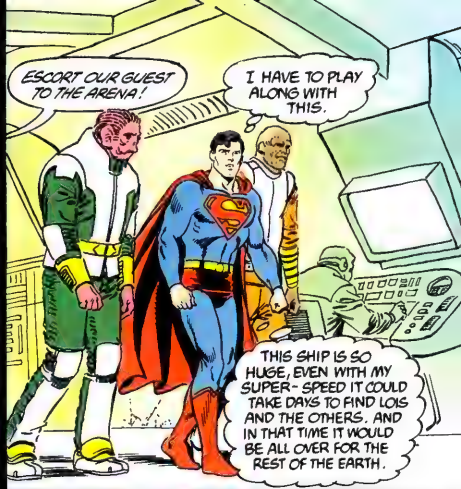




OF COURSE, SUPERMAN.

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS.

GUARDS!



ESCORT OUR GUEST TO THE ARENA!

I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG WITH THIS.

THIS SHIP IS SO HUGE, EVEN WITH MY SUPER-SPEED IT COULD TAKE DAYS TO FIND LOIS AND THE OTHERS. AND IN THAT TIME IT WOULD BE ALL OVER FOR THE REST OF THE EARTH.



ONE FINAL WORD, CAPTAIN. ON A PERSONAL NOTE.

WHEN THIS IS DONE, I'M COMING AFTER YOU.

MORE THREATS.

GOOD. GOOD. YOU ARE IDEALLY SUITED TO THE CONTEST I HAVE IN MIND, SUPERMAN.

YOU WILL GIVE US A GOOD SHOW. PERHAPS THE BEST EVER!



MY LORD CAPTAIN...

IS THIS WISE? THE ENGINES ARE NEARLY EXHAUSTED. WE NEED TO DOCK WITH THE FACTORY COMPLEX TO REGENERATE THEM.

IF SUPERMAN DEFEATS OUR WARRIOR, AND WE ARE FORCED TO RESTORE THE PLANET EARTH AND ITS SATELLITE...

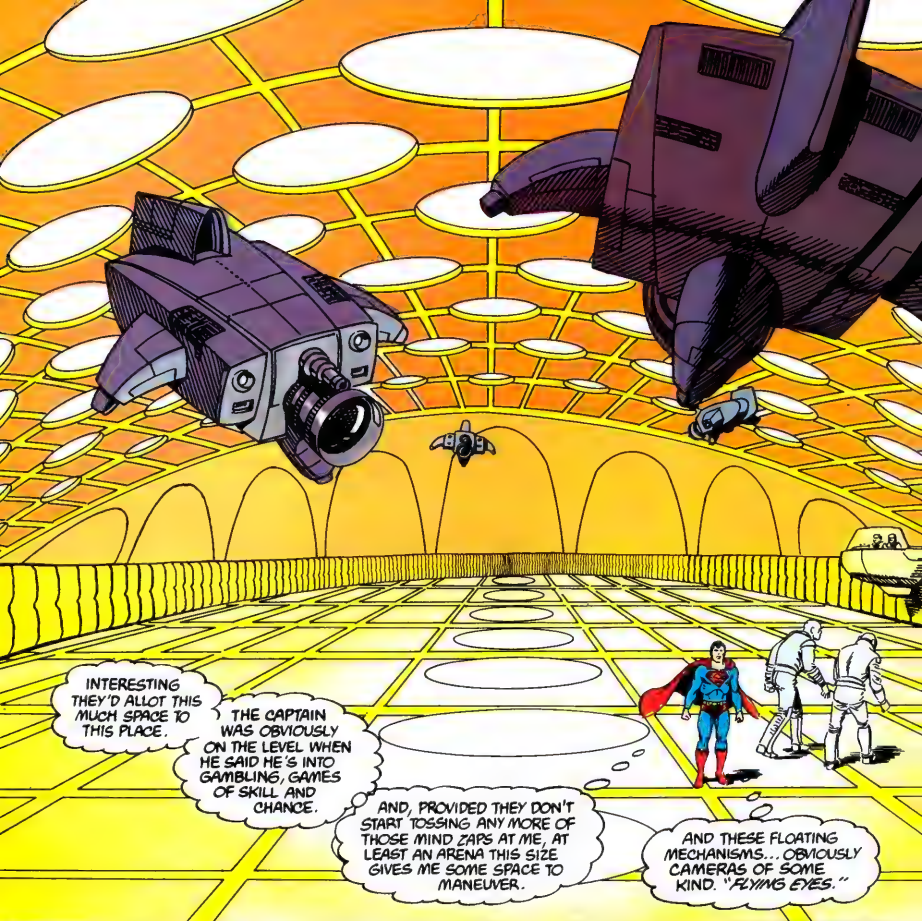
QUEEQ...



TROUBLE ME NOT WITH YOUR WHINING.

WE HAVE HERE THE POTENTIAL FOR THE GREATEST GAME WE'VE EVER PLAYED. AND THERE IS NO CHANCE OF SUPERMAN WINNING.

YOU KNOW THAT, NO CHANCE AT ALL!!

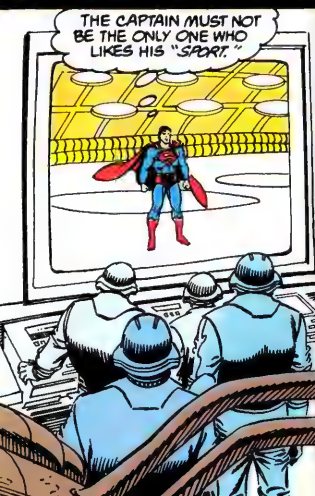


INTERESTING
THEY'D ALLOT THIS
MUCH SPACE TO
THIS PLACE.

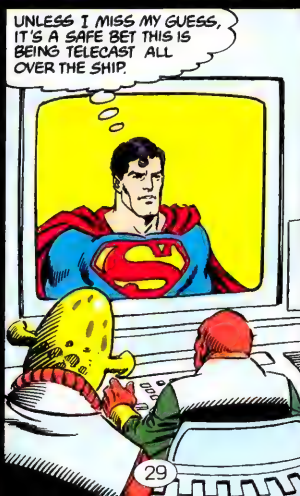
THE CAPTAIN
WAS OBVIOUSLY
ON THE LEVEL WHEN
HE SAID HE'S INTO
GAMBLING, GAMES
OF SKILL AND
CHANCE.

AND, PROVIDED THEY DON'T
START TOSSING ANY MORE OF
THOSE MIND ZAPS AT ME, AT
LEAST AN ARENA THIS SIZE
GIVES ME SOME SPACE TO
MANEUVER.

AND THESE FLOATING
MECHANISMS... OBVIOUSLY
CAMERAS OF SOME
KIND. "FLYING EYES."



THE CAPTAIN MUST NOT
BE THE ONLY ONE WHO
LIKES HIS "SPORT."



UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS,
IT'S A SAFE BET THIS IS
BEING TELECAST ALL
OVER THE SHIP.



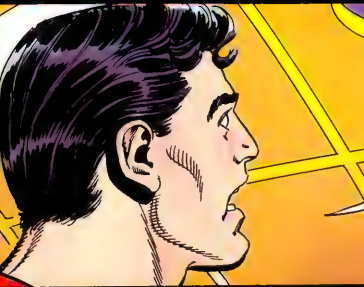
ALL RIGHT, I
THINK I CAN
GIVE THESE
PEOPLE THEIR
MONEY'S
WORTH!



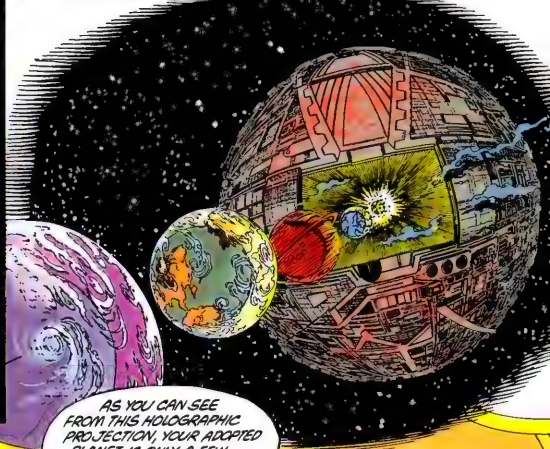
WELL, CAPTAIN?
WHEN DO WE
BEGIN?

SOON ENOUGH,
SUPERMAN. SOON
ENOUGH.

OH, AND SUPERMAN...
YOU'D BETTER WIN
THIS FIGHT QUICKLY.



WHAT??



AS YOU CAN SEE
FROM THIS HOLOGRAPHIC
PROJECTION, YOUR ADOPTED
PLANET IS ONLY A FEW
GUERLONS FROM THE
FACTORY STATION.



THIS IS NOT
PART OF THE
DEAL, CAPTAIN.



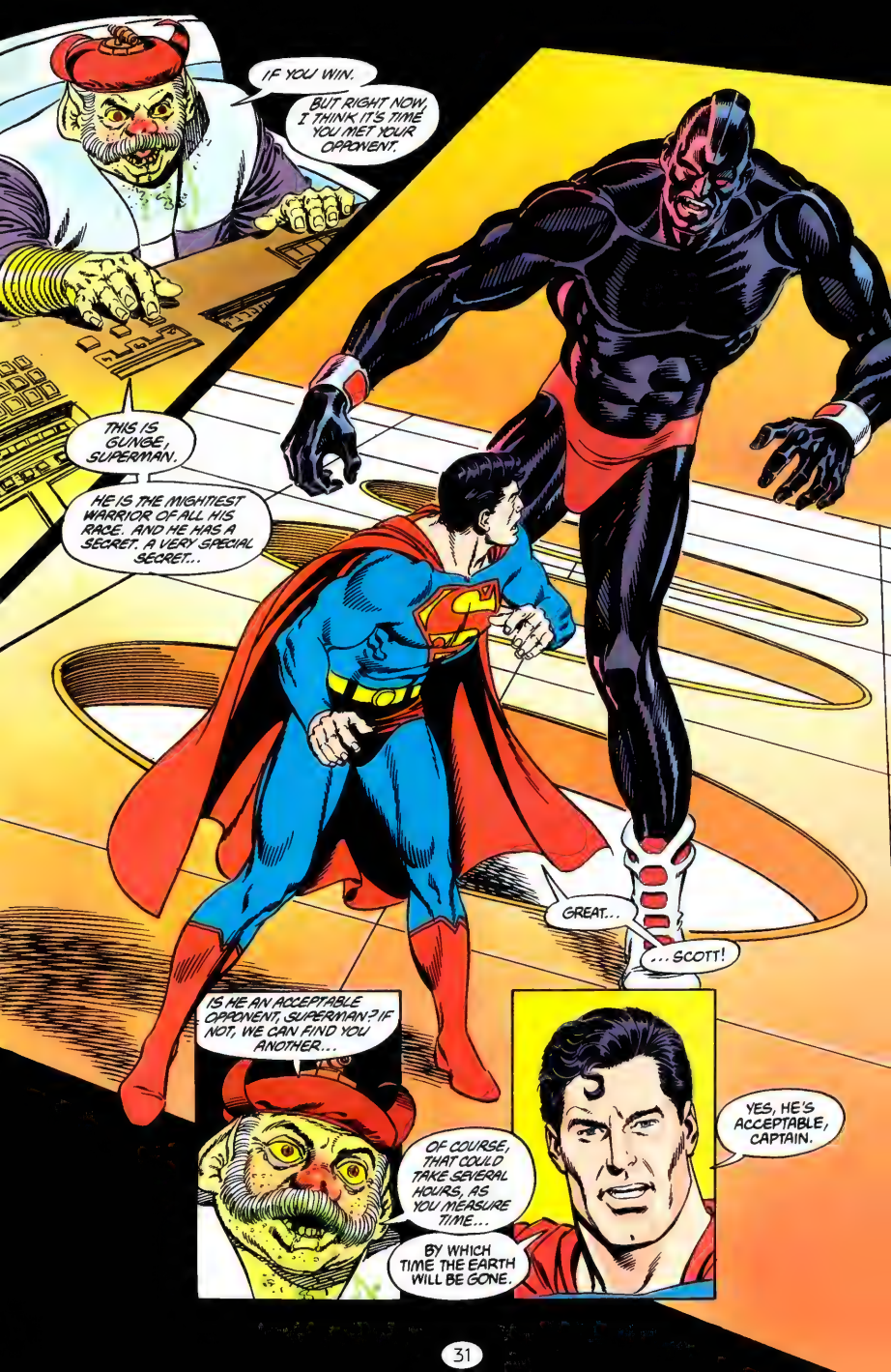
YOU LEAD ME TO
BELIEVE THIS WOULD
BE A FAIR CONTEST.

YOU LEAD ME TO
UNDERSTAND I
WOULD HAVE THE
PROPER TIME AND
OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE THE
LIVES OF ALL THE PEOPLE
OF EARTH, IF I AGREED
TO THIS BATTLE.

I
LIED.
I DID IT
A LOT.

A TERRIBLE
CHARACTER
FLAW, I
KNOW. IF YOU
WIN, PERHAPS
I'LL THINK
ABOUT
RECTIFYING
IT.





IF YOU WIN.

BUT RIGHT NOW,
I THINK IT'S TIME
YOU MET YOUR
OPPONENT.

THIS IS
GUNGE,
SUPERMAN.

HE IS THE MIGHTIEST
WARRIOR OF ALL HIS
RACE. AND HE HAS A
SECRET. A VERY SPECIAL
SECRET...

GREAT...

... SCOTT!

IS HE AN ACCEPTABLE
OPPONENT, SUPERMAN? IF
NOT, WE CAN FIND YOU
ANOTHER...

OF COURSE,
THAT COULD
TAKE SEVERAL
HOURS, AS
YOU MEASURE
TIME...

BY WHICH
TIME THE EARTH
WILL BE GONE.

YES, HE'S
ACCEPTABLE,
CAPTAIN.



GOOD!!
THEN LET
THE BATTLE
BEGIN!!

YES! YES!
THIS IS
WONDERFUL!
THIS IS
MAGNIFICENT!

BETTER
THAN I'D
HOPED!!

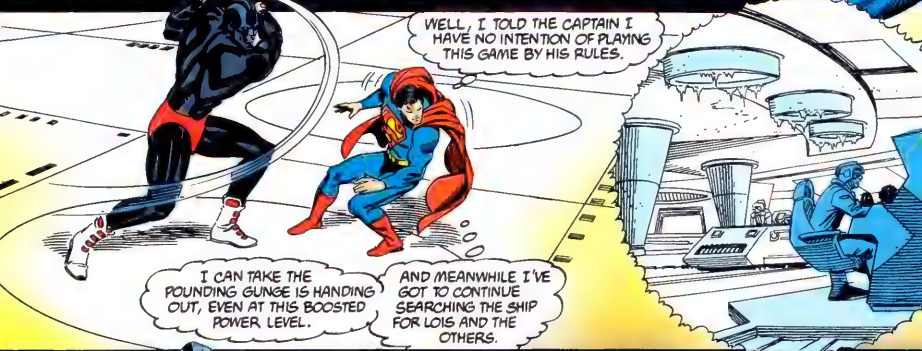
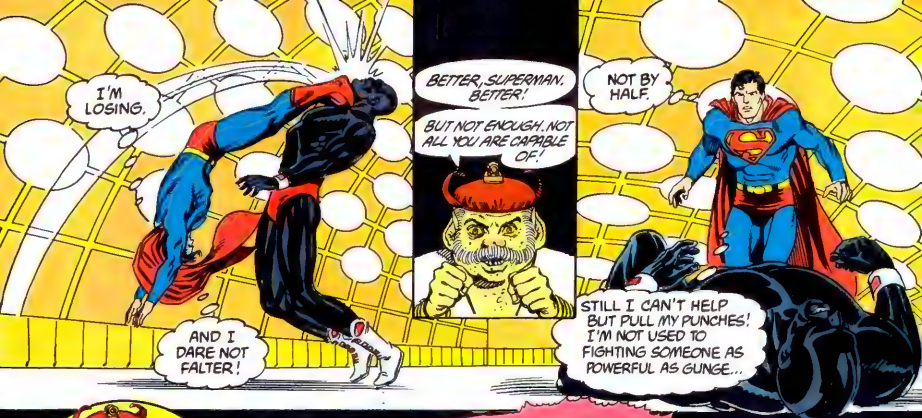


BUT YOU MUST TRY
HARDER, SUPERMAN!
HARDER!

YOU GAIN NO
GROUND! YOU
MAKE NO
HEADWAY!

GUINZE IS
UNDAMAGED.

HE'S
RIGHT.







WHAT
CAN I
DO...

... BUT
TAKE
WHATEVER
GUNSE HANDS
OUT...

...AND HOPE THE
CAPTAIN KEEPS
HIS WORD AND...

KEEPS HIS
WORD...?

COULD
THAT BE IT?
COULD THAT
BE MY
ANSWER?

THE CAPTAIN
HASN'T BEEN TRUE
TO HIS WORD IN
ANYTHING HE'S
SAID.

I'VE GOT EVERY
GOOD REASON
TO THINK HE'S
PROBABLY LYING
ABOUT THIS, TOO.

BUT, WHAT
IF HE ISN'T...?
IF GUNGE IS
REALLY
DRAWING
POWER FROM
LOIS, PERRY
AND JIMMY...

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

MY SENSORS
SHOW YOUR HEAT
VISION IN OPERATION.

THAT WON'T
HELP YOU,
SUPERMAN!

WON'T IT,
CAPTAIN?

I'M BETTING
THAT IF YOU'RE
REALLY DRAWING
POWER FROM MY
FRIENDS, MY HEAT
VISION WILL HAVE
IONIZED THE AIR
AROUND GUNGE...

SO HE WON'T BE
RECEIVING ANY MORE
TRANSMITTED ENERGY
FROM THE OTHERS.

AND
THAT
ALLOWS ME
TO DO...

... THIS!!!



I DON'T BELIEVE IT...!

BELIEVE IT CAPTAIN. YOU MAY HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR MISERABLE LIFE...

AND, IRONICALLY, THAT IS WHAT COST YOU YOUR VICTORY!

NOW, I'M GOING TO FORCE YOU TO KEEP YOUR WORD, CAPTAIN. FREE MY FRIENDS, AND RETURN THE EARTH AND MOON TO THEIR PROPER PLACE...

NO, SUPERMAN.

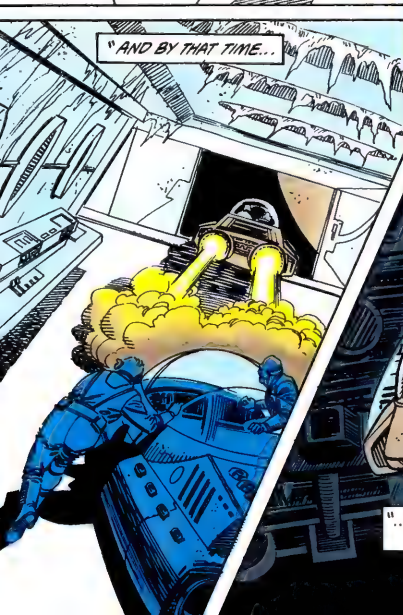
SINCE MY SINGLE TRUTHFUL INDISCRETION HAS COST ME SO MUCH...



I THINK I SHOULD CUT MY LOSSES RIGHT HERE.

FAREWELL, SUPERMAN.

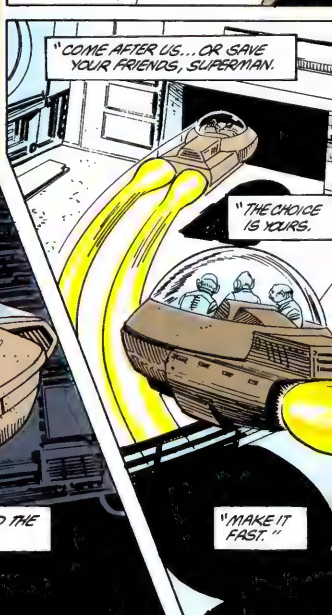
THIS VESSEL WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN THREE OF YOUR MINUTES.



"AND BY THAT TIME..."



"MY CREW AND I..."



"COME AFTER US... OR SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, SUPERMAN."

"THE CHOICE IS YOURS."

"... WILL BE SAFELY ABOARD THE FACTORY STATION."

"MAKE IT FAST."



BLAST!

OF COURSE I HAVE TO STOP THESE CHARGES PERMANENTLY DAMAGING THE SHIP.

THE CAPTAIN'S "CHOICE" IS NO CHOICE AT ALL.

I HAVE TO ACT ON THAT CHANCE, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A PIPE-DREAM!

IT'S THE ONLY HOPE I HAVE OF EVER SAFELY RESTORING THE EARTH AND MOON.

HE IS NOT COMING AFTER US.

GOOD. GOOD. MY RUSE HAS WORKED.

CALLING THE PROCESSORS. CALLING THE PROCESSORS. WE REQUIRE SANCTUARY...

COME ABOARD, CAPTAIN.



YOU HAVE MUCH TO EXPLAIN.

WHY DID YOU ABANDON THE GATHERER?

YOUR PERCEPTIONS ARE SKEWED, CAPTAIN.

YOU HAVE SENTENCED US TO SLOW DEATH, OUT HERE IN THE VOID, CAPTAIN.

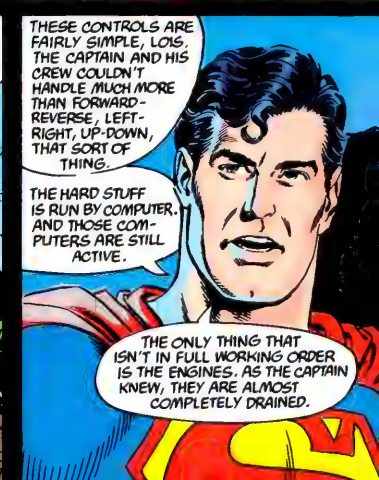
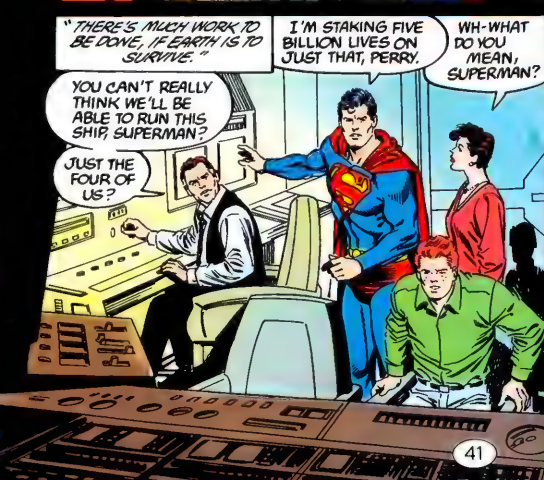
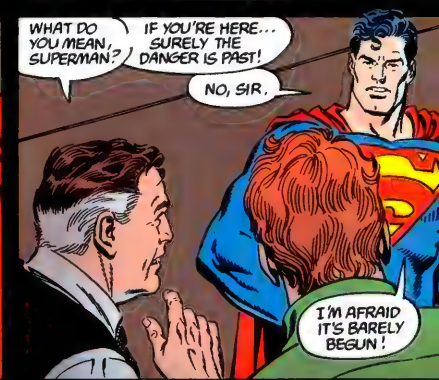
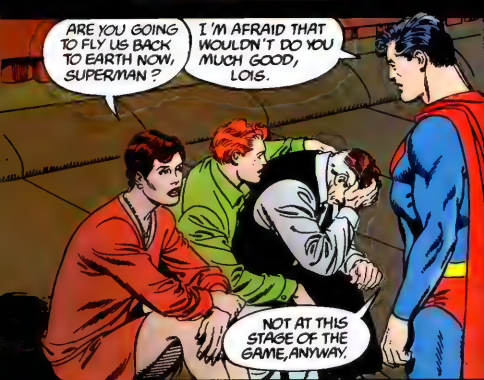
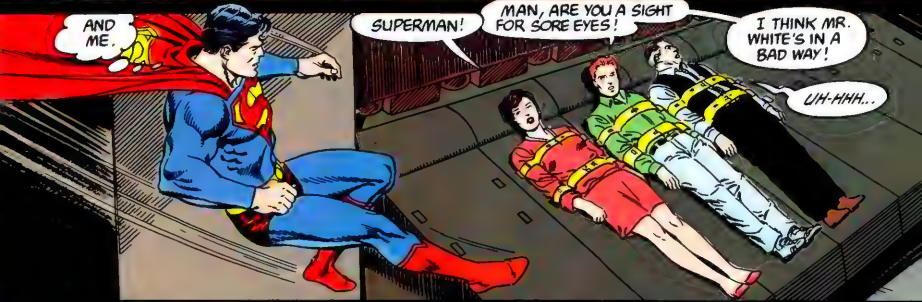
WE TAKE SMALL SOLACE NOW IN THE SURE KNOWLEDGE YOU AND YOUR CREW WILL PRECEDE US INTO OBLIVION...

IN ABANDONING THE GATHERER, YOU HAVE CONDEMNED US. WE CANNOT BUILD ANOTHER, LACKING RESOURCES AND SKILL.

THE SAFETY OF MYSELF AND MY CREW IS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO ME THAN YOUR SHIP, PROCESSOR.

WE WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES!

N-NO...!!



AND THAT'S
WHERE I
COME IN...

SUPERMAN!

YOU CAN'T MEAN...
YOU'RE GOING OUT
THERE? INTO
SPACE?

YOU...
YOU CAN'T!

I'M...
GLAD THAT
STILL CONCERNS
YOU, LOIS.

OH, FOR
GOD'S SAKE,
SUPERMAN!

YOU'VE...
HURT ME. I
WON'T DENY
IT.

I DON'T HAVE ANY
CHOICE, LOIS.

THIS VESSEL MUST BE
MOVED BACK TO SOL,
WHILE THE EARTH AND
MOON ARE STILL HELD
SAFELY IN ITS
GATHERING
FIELD.

AND THAT
MEANS... I'LL
HAVE TO
PUSH IT.

BUT... BUT EVEN YOU
DON'T HAVE ANYTHING
LIKE THAT KIND OF
POWER, SUPERMAN!

IF YOU TRY TO
MOVE THE EARTH
AND MOON...

YOU'LL
ONLY EXHAUST
YOURSELF. KILL
YOURSELF.

BUT... BUT
FOR ALL THAT
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN...

I COULDN'T
BEAR TO SEE
YOU DIE...

I... WON'T,
LOIS.

YOU'VE GIVEN
ME A REASON
NOT TO!

WELL, HERO,
YOU TALK A
GOOD RESCUE...

BUT LOIS
IS ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT.

I HAVE NOTHING LIKE
THE POWER TO PUSH
PLANETS AROUND.

BUT I'M HOPING
THIS VESSEL DOESN'T,
EITHER!

I'M HOPING THERE'S
SOMETHING IN THE
HOLDING FIELD THAT
NEUTRALIZES THE
INCREDIBLE MASS OF
THE PLANETS BEING
MOVED.

PERHAPS
SOMETHING IN
THE SAME MECHANISM
THAT KEEPS THEM FROM
BEING RIPPED APART
BY THE GRAVITATIONAL
FLUX OF MOVEMENT.

IF
NOT...

WELL, LET'S
NOT THINK ABOUT
THAT, FOR NOW.

THERE
REALLY ARE
FIVE BILLION
HUMAN LIVES
HANGING ON
WHAT HAPPENS
NEXT.

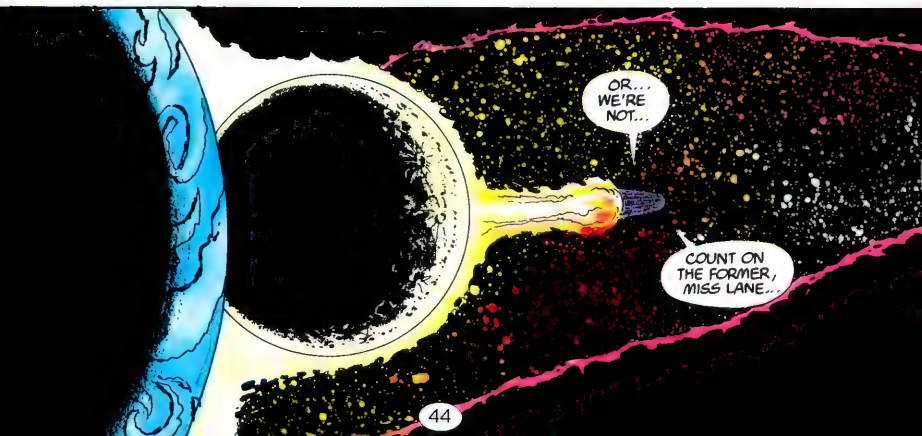
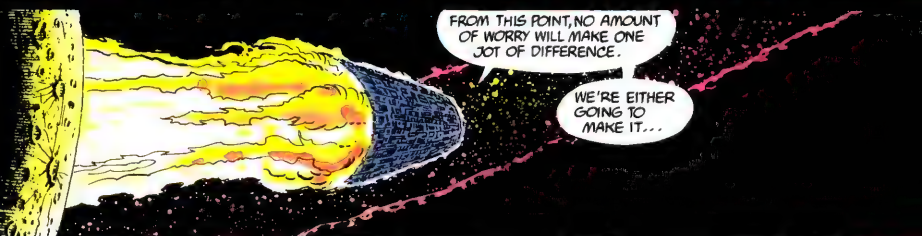
AND THE REALLY
UGH: FUNNY
THING IS, WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF MY
THREE FRIENDS INSIDE
UGH: NOT ONE OF
THOSE FIVE BILLION
KNOWS THEIR
SITUATION!

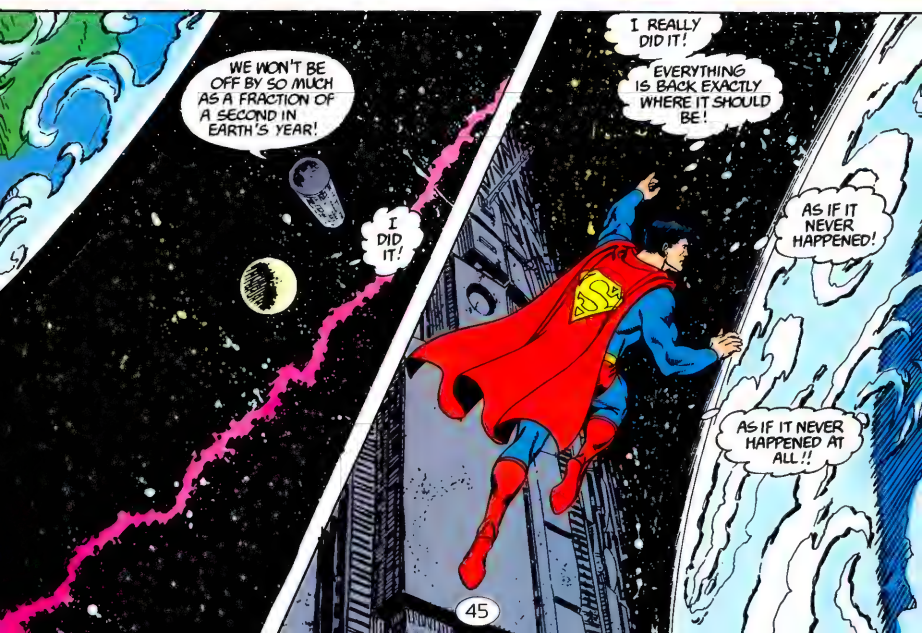
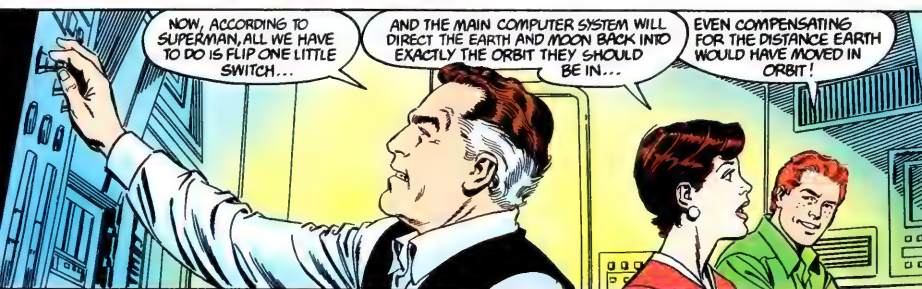
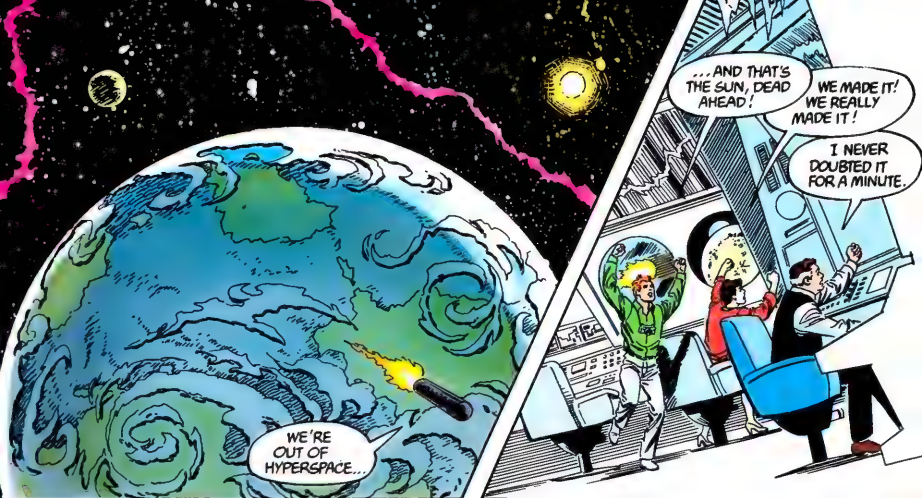
AND
UGH:
WITH ANY
LUCK--UGH-AHHH--
AT ALL...

THEY
NEVER
WILL!

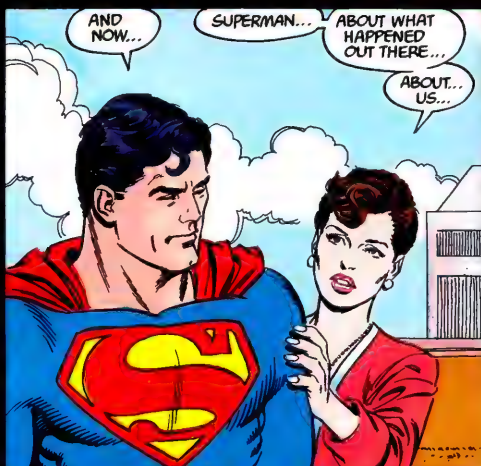
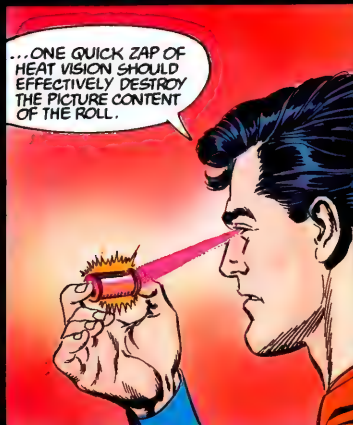
PERRY! HE'S
DOING IT! WE'RE
MOVING!!

WELL, DON'T
JUST STAND THERE,
LOIS! FIRE UP THAT
SPACE WARP THING!











Dedicated, with gratitude,
to Superman's creators
Jerry Siegel and *Joe Shuster*
and to all who followed them.



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AN INVITATION
TO THE
WEDDING OF
Martha Clark
and
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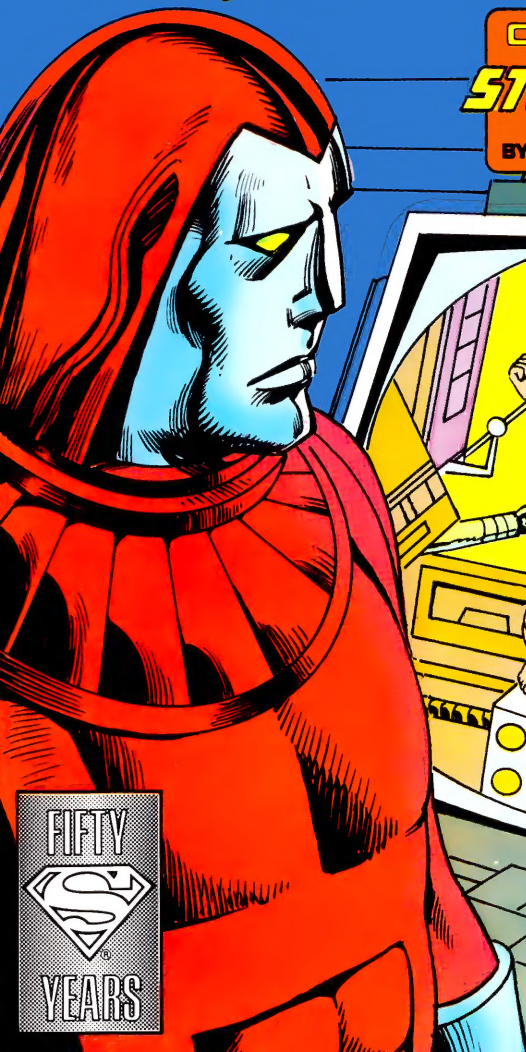


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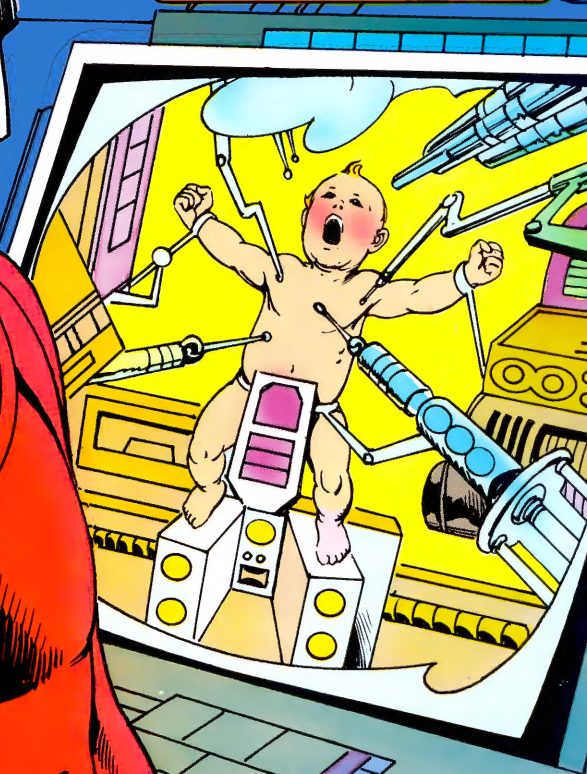
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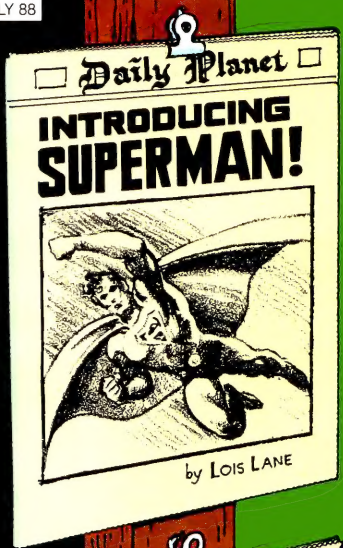
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